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Trilateral Central Asian Military Pact Signed

NC1002203394 Baku TURAN in English 1258 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow (February 9) TURAN—The Russian Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan, Mikhail Romanov, met with Kyrgystan's Minister of Defense, Myrzakhan Subanov, in late January. A source at the Russian Foreign Ministry has reported the signing of a trilateral pact on military cooperation between Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. This plan to form a strong military coalition in Central Asia came as a surprise to Russia. According to available information, even Boris Gromov, Deputy Defense Minister of Russia, who visited Bishkek recently, was not informed about the treaty signing.

During the talks, Subanov expressed his preparedness to sign a bilateral treaty with Russia. The parties agreed to begin immediate preparations of the documents. These documents will be signed during Russian Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin's visit to Kyrgyzstan in late February.

Baltic Human Rights Institute Rejects Kozyrev Allegations

WS1002181094 Tallinn BNS in English 1425 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 10, BNS—The Human Rights Institute released a protest against Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's recent statement in which he claims the Baltic states violate human rights.

Kozyrev's statement said the Baltic states violate the rights of people of Russian origin on an ethnic basis. He accused them of planning forcible deportation of thousands of people and an ethnic cleansing.

The institute declared that the international CSCE, U.N. and Council of Europe commissions have not observed in the Baltic states violations of human rights on an ethnic basis.

The institute voiced the opinion that accusations of human rights violations stem from Russia's interest in keeping its forces in the Baltic states and subjecting those countries to its imperialistic ambitions.

Baltic Free Trade Agreement Effective 1 Apr

WS1102190594 Tallinn ETA in English 1416 GMT 11 Feb 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Free trade agreement between the three Baltic countries will take effect on April 1, Priit Kolbre, the head of the Estonian Foreign Ministry's economic policy department, told ETA on Friday [11 February].

All three Baltic countries have already ratified the agreement.

The original of the document will remain in Estonia and the country will also act as a coordinator of the agreement, Kolbre said.

Baltic free trade agreement involves practically every industrial product with clauses providing for some restrictions based on individual interests of the countries.

'Secret' Auction of Baltic Fleet Hardware Held

LD1002172094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 10 Feb 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The event we are talking about happened about three weeks ago, yet we have to report it just to ask this one question: Why did the first auction held in our navy, and perhaps in the whole of the Russian army, take place in secret? They were not selling the most up-to-date equipment, just obsolete naval vessels. Three were purchased by St. Petersburg firms to break up for scrap and the fourth—a medium amphibious warfare ship—to be converted into a freighter.

On the whole the auction was deemed a success. However, the command of the Baltic Fleet was in no hurry to appraise it; indeed it had earlier been sharply criticized by the Ministry of Defense for its commercial activity. That is why there was a shroud of secrecy over the auction and why no journalists were there, even though we have all known for a long time that with the loss of the bases in the Baltic countries and with the fleet being cut back auctions like this could well resolve one of the most acute issues—that of financing the housing program for servicemen and their families.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 11 Feb

LD1102064394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0540 GMT 11 Feb 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 11—The ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI newspaper focuses today on the problem of crime in Russia. The newspaper informs its readers of a meeting held by the Interior Ministry collegium, which called on the Russian Government "not to save money on support for law enforcement bodies".

The same newspaper writes about a legislative initiative by the Russia's Choice faction at the State Duma (lower house of the Russian parliament) on crime control considered by the faction as the main present-day problem.

However, the newspaper notes, the Russia's Choice initiative is blocked at the Duma by the factions of Agrarians, Communists and the Liberal Democratic Party.

Pointing to the fact that "a new stage starts in the development of organised crime in Russia", the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper regards this as "the beginning of political terrorism".

The same newspaper states that "Russia now experiences dire hunger for an ideology of reforms". It notes in this connection that "the creation of an economic policy out of illusory contradictory ideas on restoring industry and on continued cuts of state expenditures has now more to do with public relations than with real possibilities of the government to pursue this policy".

Newspapers also concentrate attention on the continuing strike by mine builders at some collieries in Vorkuta (Russia's north). Noting that Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin will meet the miners' delegation on Friday, the TRUD newspaper expresses hope that the conflict will be settled.

The PRAVDA newspaper, comparing mining strikes with "a winter hurricane after a shock therapy", stresses that other strikes also started. For instance, "Thousands of lecturers from hundreds of Russian higher educational establishments" went on strike.

TRUD features an interview with Chairman of the State Property Committee Anatoliy Chubays, dealing with progress in privatisation in Russia.

Examining the situation with privatisation in Russia, he notes that "to all appearances, privatisation has been accomplished. It has been accomplished, despite the fierce resistance of bureaucratic structures at all levels and some political forces".

Commenting on the results of a trip by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to Central Asian republics, the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper stresses that "the joint statement made by the Russian and Uzbek Foreign Ministries in Tashkent on February 9 reflects the principal position on Afghanistan".

"Apart from expressing deep concern over events in the neighbouring state, the statement confirms principles of strict neutrality and non-interference in Afghanistan's domestic affairs."

The RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA newspaper carries an article by prominent American politilogist Steven Cohen entitled "Who Lost Russia". The author writes that "seriously wounded, polarised and riled Russia direly needs reasonable, concerted and gradual reforms".

He notes in this connection that a broad coalition of Russian moderate centrist politicians seeks to become a political force which could review the process of reforms.

This moderate bloc is Russia's hope, possibly, its last chance to carry out democratic changes based on market relations, Cohen stresses.

Commenting on international events, the press singles out the aggravated problem of the Bosnian crisis. Newspapers point to the determination of NATO, using the ultimatum put forth before Bosnian Serbs, to tackle the problem by force.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA points to different approaches of NATO and Russia to this problem. The newspaper even writes that "although it is highly improbable, but a full-scale war may break out nine days later" (eds: deadline of NATO's ultimatum to Serbs).

Clinton Cited on Attempts To Contact Yeltsin

LD1102074694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0730 GMT 11 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Vanichkin]

[Text] Washington February 11 TASS—The main objective of the NATO policy in Bosnia is not the armed struggle against Serbs, but the protection of the integrity of Sarajevo and of residents of that city, U.S. President Bill Clinton told journalists on Thursday [10 February].

Responding to the question on whether or not the NATO countries are ready to start bombing Serbian positions in Bosnia without the "silent consent" of Moscow, Clinton said one should bear in mind that NATO's actions are in line with U.N. actions. Russia, as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, took part in the drawing up of the U.N. policy in Bosnia.

Clinton said he had received a letter from the Russian president on Wednesday morning. He would like to use it as a basis for a telephone conversation with Boris Yeltsin, but could not reach him by telephone. He hopes the Russian president will agree to help in promoting the process of a peaceful settlement in Bosnia.

The U.S. President said he did not know what technical problems may prevent him from reaching Yeltsin by telephone for the second day in succession. However, senior officials of the two countries have been holding for two days active consultations on the situation in Bosnia. Specifically, such consultations were held by U.S. Representative at the United Nations Organisation Madeleine Albright and U.S. Ambassador to Russia Thomas Pickering. According to Clinton, there is no reason to believe that some serious problem may hamper the joint advance of the two countries.

Dee Dee Myers, press secretary of the U.S. President, said at a briefing in the White House that Clinton and Yeltsin had not been able to speak on the telephone for technical reasons and a considerable time difference. President Clinton tried to reach Yeltsin by telephone on Wednesday, but, unfortunately, they did not have a conversation, the press secretary continued. He repeated his attempt on Thursday. They have not managed to speak so far, and she hopes Clinton will make it on Friday.

Yeltsin 'Was Prepared' for Phone Call

LD1102110794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1031 GMT 11 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow February 11 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin was prepared for telephone talks with President Bill Clinton on Bosnia on February 9 and 10. as proposed by the U.S. side, but the talks did not take place for reasons beyond the Russian side's control, according to a competent source in the Russian president's staff.

Officials of the presidential communications service told ITAR-TASS the Russian side had ensured all the required technical prerequisites for the telephone talks between the two presidents.

Clinton, Yeltsin Hold Phone Talks

LD1102171394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1643 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow February 11 TASS—A telephone conversation of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and U.S. President Bill Clinton focused tonight on situation in Bosnia.

The Presidents noted similarity of their approaches on many aspects of Bosnian settlement, the presidential press service reports.

At the same time, Russia believes only the United Nations Security Council should take decisions on all issues related to the situation in Bosnia, including Sarajevo.

Kozyrev Says No Problems With Links

LD1202144494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1355 GMT 12 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Feb—The telephone conversation between the Russian and U.S. presidents over the Bosnian problem took place on 11 February, rather than on 9 or 10 February as expected earlier. This delay caused speculations in the media over the state of repair of the Russian Federation communications system.

On this matter, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told ITAR-TASS today that "there are absolutely no technical communications problems on our part, it would be better to ask the other side about this." "All allegations that one cannot get a line to Moscow are absolutely unfounded," he emphasized.

Andrey Kozyrev also said that Russian President Boris Yeltsin is in good shape and he has had a phone conversation with him. "There are no problems at all in this respect either," the minister remarked.

Kozyrev, Christopher Hold Phone Talks

LD1202222494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2205 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow, 13 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held a telephone conversation on Saturday [12 February] at the U.S. initiative, according to a report by the Department of Information and Press of the Russian Foreign Ministry, which ITAR-TASS has just received.

The document stresses that during the conversation "there was a frank exchange of opinions on the latest development of events on the Bosnian conflict and on seeking ways to unite efforts with a view to achieving a political settlement both around Sarajevo and in Bosnia as a whole. Particular attention was devoted to the session of the UN Security Council on the Bosnian question on 14 February."

Political Problems in Reaching Yeltsin

PM1102162194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Feb 94 First Edition p 2

[Report by Vasiliy Kononenko: "W. Clinton Could Have Gotten Through to B. Yeltsin If He Had Wanted To"]

[Text] On 11 February world agencies reported on a briefing at the White House on the adoption by the NATO Council, at the level of representatives of the member countries, of a decision which, as is known, presupposes the possibility of bombing raids on Serbian positions in Bosnia.

During the briefing, White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers said, in particular, that President Clinton had "tried to get through to Yeltsin before the announcement of NATO's decision. Unfortunately, their conversation did not take place."

This statement clearly qualifies as sensational on two counts. Even in the cold war years there was no occasion when the leaders of the two great powers were unable to hear one another in an emergency. Second, your IZVESTIYA correspondent has seen the mobile presidential communications switchboards which are set up wherever he might be at any time of the day or night: in a car, in an aircraft (from the big presidential TU-154 M to the small Yak-40, on which he occasionally makes short flights, and the helicopter, which is used for trips to his out-of-town residence, and so on).

V. Ilyushin, the president's principal assistant [pervyy pomoshchnik], told INTERFAX that B. Yeltsin had been ready to talk for 90 minutes and had waited for the call "for as long as he decently could."

Your IZVESTIYA correspondent also managed to establish that "non-hotline" communications between the two presidents are conducted via a switchboard at the Foreign Ministry. A. Lake, the U.S. president's national security assistant, got through to Moscow via this switchboard, and this fact might refute Mrs. Myers' words about technical difficulties.

So what we are talking about probably is political "difficulties." Washington wanted to wait for the NATO Council decision on the Serbian question, and only then perhaps inform the Russian president.

Further on Failed Phone Call

MK1202123094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 12 Feb 94 p 1

[Anatoliy Veslo report under the "Hello" rubric: "Clinton Tried To Reach Yeltsin for Three Days. Yavlinskiy Did Not Sleep an Entire Night"]

[Excerpts] Last night a telephone conversation between the presidents of the United States and Russia finally took place. Earlier, according to REUTER, Bill Clinton tried to reach Boris Yeltsin to discuss NATO's decision on an ultimatum to the Bosnian Serbs, but to no avail. [passage omitted]

Anatoliy Krasikov, chief of the Russian president's press service, said to your SEGODNYA correspondent that all communications services were in 100 percent working condition, and that Boris Yeltsin was waiting for the call at the agreed time. So, interference, if any, must have been outside Russia.

Viktor Ilyushin, first aide of the Russian president, expressed his view to INTERFAX's correspondent: "This is the first such incident in our practice. What remains is to express regret that the two sides did not manage to organize the dialogue."

Mr. Ilyushin noted, however, that in order for a telephone conversation to take place both interlocutors should be on the phone. For instance, on Thursday, President Yeltsin was ready to talk for an hour and a half. He had been waiting for a conversation with the White House "for as long as the rules of propriety allow," the presidential aide said.

The reaction from politicians, particularly democratic leaders close to the president, was fairly balanced: "Boris Yeltsin has disappeared from the horizon—so what? This is not the first time." Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, however, complained to your SEGODNYA correspondent that he did not sleep on the night of Thursday and Friday, because his Western acquaintances besieged him with the question of where the Russian president had gone.

TV Sees 'Confrontation' With West Over Bosnia

LD1002182494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 10 Feb 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Today marks the start of the alarming count-down of the 10-day ultimatum which representatives of the North Atlantic Alliance have given the Serbs. If the siege of Sarajevo is not lifted, NATO will begin bombing Serb positions.

[Commentator F. Tavrovskiy] This is far from the first ultimatum that has been given. One can cite similarities with the years of the Cold War when China gave the United States its 547th serious and final warning for violating its territorial waters. Things are different here, and the most important difference in this ultimatum is the existence of a strictly defined 10-day period. Moreover, now NATO does not need to spend a long time seeking consent from the large UN bureaucracy. The decision to start bombing will be taken directly with the participation of Butrus-Ghali.

Now there is only Russia which can lift the threat from the Serbs. Today Russia called for the urgent convening of the UN Security Council to discuss the crisis. As Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Adamishin stated, Russia is calling for a settlement of the Bosnian conflict by means of demilitarizing Sarajevo and handing over the city to UN control. Adamishin expressed disagreement with the view that Butrus-Ghali has given NATO authority to carry out bombing strikes. Butrus-Ghali has only asked whether the North Atalantic Alliance is ready, if necessary, to make its aviation available but he did not hand over UN functions to NATO, Adamishin stressed.

The deputy foreign minister said that in the near future Boris Yeltsin will have telephone conversations with the leaders of Western countries on the question of Bosnia.

[Announcer] All the same, it should be noted that the statement made by Russia today puts it in a rather complicated position. In the first place, the decision by the North Atlantic Alliance is already based on a UN Security Council resolution which allows military force to be used in extreme cases. Therefore, the attempts of the Russian leaders to transfer the discussion of the Bosnian question to the Security Council will, most likely, not be successful. This dissenting position by Russia, perhaps for the first time in recent years, is putting it on the path toward confrontation with Western diplomacy.

Zhirinovskiy Threatens France Over Bosnia

LD1002210894 Paris TF-1 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Report from Moscow by correspondent Catherine Jentile]

[Excerpt] [Jentile] In Moscow, the time has come to gather support for the Bosnian Serbs. The now-famous extremist, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy took a first step a few days ago. Displaying one of his acolytes dressed in Serbian combat uniform he explained: With this uniform, but with Russian weapons, the Serbs will respond to every aggression.

Last night the ultranationalist leader rammed his message home, at the very time when NATO was delivering its ultimatum:

[Begin Zhirinovskiy recording, in French] If French airmen bomb the cities of Bosnia, then one day we will bomb French cities, and even Paris. [end recording]

[Jentile] This morning, the Russian government also made its voice heard, questioning NATO's right to decide on air strikes, and appealing to the United Nations. A little later, the Russian Army announced that it was beginning early warning exercises [exercices de mise en alerte] for the headquarters of their strategic nuclear forces. For now, however, there is no question of crossing the boundary between exercises and reality:

[Begin recording of Anatoliy Adamishin, deputy Russian foreign minister, in Russian, with superimposed French translation] What could we do if NATO were to carry out such air strikes? We obviously do not have the material means to oppose them. So we will not go to war with NATO. [passage omitted] [end recording]

NATO Official Casts Doubt on Bosnia Ultimatum

LD1102210294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2017 GMT 11 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Nikolay Kalintsev]

[Text] Moscow February 11 TASS—Vice-President of the North Atlantic Assembly - NATO parliament and expert of foreign policy affairs of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SDPG) in Bundestag (Germany's Parliament) Karsten Voigt expressed doubts in the expediency of the NATO ultimatum given to the Bosnian Serbs.

He told journalists in Moscow today that the decision regarding the ultimatum was adopted at a high-level session of the European Union (EU) and session of the NATO Permanent Council in Brussels. The ultimatum's essence is a threat of carrying out air strikes on Serb positions, if the Serbs do not pull out their heavy weapons from the security zone around Sarajevo by a specified date, he said.

The problem is not to put an end to the inhuman siege of the Bosnian capital, the German parliamentarian added, nobody is opposed to it. The question concerns consequences of such a step, which are difficult to predict now. In order to put the ultimatum into action, inevitably further decisions will have to be adopted, which will not only involve a military, but also a political risk. At stake is the prestige of the U.N. and the capability of the world organization to carry out further actions in order to settle the Sarajevo conflict.

Besides this, Sarajevo is not an isolated incident. There are other cities in Bosnia which have been besieged not only by the Serbs, but also by the Moslems and Croats. That is why while resolving the Bosnian problem, all politicians should also take into consideration its complexity and diversity, Voigt noted.

Replying to a question asked by this correspondent, the Bundestag member expressed an understanding of the Russian Foreign Ministry's position. I share the apprehensions of Russian diplomats regarding the use of military means in order to resolve the problem, Voigt said. Like them, I also think that the use of force will lead to a further escalation of violence. Difference of opinions exist in the assessment of the situation, which has emerged after the declaration of the ultimatum, he emphasised. Now the U.N. and the North Atlantic Union should seek its implementation, so as to maintain the convincingness [as received] of its policy and capability in the future, he said.

Kozyrev on Air Strikes

LD1202203794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1818 GMT 12 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Feb—"Our position on the Bosnian settlement is absolutely clear, it was defined by the president of the Russian Federation," Andrey Kozyrev, minister of foreign affairs of Russia, said in conversation with journalists in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation today. The Security Council, the United Nations should take additional measures to guarantee safe areas in Bosnia, including, naturally, Sarajevo, and "exclude the possiblity of continuous cease-fire violations in the region," the minister said.

If there are exchanges of fire, attacks on places where UN forces are deployed, where they are carrying out their tasks, the command of UN forces appeals to the organization's secretary general who, after a vote in the Security Council, makes the appropriate decisions on supporting them, including aerial support, that is, on the possibility of launching an air strike to defend the UN contingent in Bosnia, the Russian minister continued.

"Our position is immutable," Andrey Kozyrev stressed. It's another matter, he noted, whether such military support needs to be 'obtained' in every specific case, at every specific moment. This question still remains open.

But Russia does not exclude aerial support in principle, since it is provided for directly in the Security Council resolution, which Moscow voted for.

Three weeks ago, the Russian side put forward the proposal to reinforce safe areas and to take additional measures, the minister recalled. "Unfortunately, it took the tragedy at Sarajevo market (I want to express special gratitude to CNN, thanks to whom the world learned of the horror) for our partners to be concerned about reinforcing safe areas, for the United Nations, the Security Council, the UN forces to step up their participation in resolving the problem," he noted. "I want to reiterate that an air strike is not excluded in principle, but for that to happen, the UN forces on the spot should raise the specific question, on a specific situation, and the UN secretary general will make a decision in coordination with the members of the Security Council."

Speaking of the proposals by the ministers of foreign affairs of France and Germany for Russia to join in the settlement plan, Andrey Kozyrev said that these proposals were the basis of the plan of the European Union. This document contains many elements which were discussed by the minister of foreign affairs of the Russian Federation and Klaus Kinkel, and which Vitaliy Churkin, Lord Owen and Stoltenberg, cochairmen of the London conference on the former Yugoslavia, are working on now. The United States has now put forward its proposals for seeking a peaceful settlement.

As far as the NATO ultimatum is concerned, the minister noted, this decision by NATO accords with the Security Council resolution, the part which provides for involving individual states or regional organizations (in this instance, NATO) in aerial support, if the UN command on the spot appeals for help to defend its personnel. "There is no point in joining this," Andrey Kozyrev thinks, "but we said immediately that the NATO decision contains elements which the Security Council resolution does not spell out, at least clearly." Heavy artillery is not enumerated, nor are the UN forces' functions to take heavy arms under control, while this is mentioned in the text of the NATO decision.

We think, the minister continued, that the decision on the UN forces should be made by the UN Security Council. And the letter by the organization's secretary general says that the United Nations will instruct its forces to carry out certain functions, and NATO's proposal to defend these forces accords with this.

The letter says that the UN mandate must be clarified. The minister recalled that he wrote two letters to the UN secretary general on these questions even before the UN ultimatum on the need to reinforce the functions of the UN forces, to defend safe areas. Had it been done earlier, CNN might not have had to show the tragedy at the market in Sarajevo.

But in this case the point is not competition, or priority, but acting together, without any claim to the truth, to bring the matter of a settlement to a conclusion.

We all now have to work in the Security Council, the Russian minister said, and in Geneva on the "Sarajevo group" (of issues), that is, to address the problems of withdrawing heavy weapons and strengthening the security zone, and on guarantees, including, if such a specific need should arise, "perhaps, also carrying out air strikes." The second group of issues, he continued, is the actual Bosnian settlement.

Speaking of Russia's position on the Bosnian settlement, Andrey Kozyrev pointed out that the essence of the problem lay in the fact that Bosnia will have to be divided, while preserving the framework of a single state, into parts that are quite independent according to the ethnic principle. There are various options for division, he said. One of them is the well-known Vance-Owen plan, now there is another—simpler and easier.

The point is that Russia and the European Union have elaborated a plan which determines the division of

Bosnian territory between the three sides. We are pressing these sides to agree to a compromise in solving territorial questions. Until recently the United States did not join us, the minister said, it did not give us full support, displaying restraint in this matter. But now Washington supports the plan and is pressing all three sides in the conflict to agree to a compromise. "In the main we have been working with the Serbian side," Andrey Kozyrev said, and Germany with the Croatian, and there was a kind of "missing link"—the Muslim side. Maybe the United States could exert a certain pressure and work with the Bosnian Government. This is why, the minister believes, it is good news that Washington is joining the efforts of the European Union and Russia in trying to reach agreement.

"As concerns the Russian side," Andrey Kozyrev said, "we will continue what we were doing before—cooperating with the European Union and the United States in seeking a peace settlement in Bosnia."

Talk about air strikes is leading some representatives of the Bosnian sides to be tempted temporarily to postpone making a decision on a settlement, and to direct all attention to the problem of air strikes, the Russian minister stressed. Unfortunately, this talk is stimulating some people in Serbia itself, since they understand that in military terms such air strikes will be quite limited, but in moral terms it frees their hands for various kinds of military campaigns and actions.

The Russian minister said in conclusion that for the defense of UN forces "air strikes may be used, if the UN forces themselves ask for this, as it must not be allowed for peacekeeping forces to be left defenseless, and not only in Bosnia, but also in Somalia, Abkhazia and other places. This is why we are taking such a cautious attitude toward the idea of air strikes, as this distracts world attention from the search for a political settlement in Bosnia."

Churkin Meets With Serbian President Milosevic

LD1302144694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1355 GMT 13 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Text] Belgrade, 13 Feb—Slobodan Milosevic, president of Serbia, received Vitaliy Churkin, special envoy of the president of Russia and deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Russian Federation, today. Ways of stopping the civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and achieving a political solution of the crisis were discussed during the meeting. In this connection, the common opinion was expressed that the defusing of the situation in and around Sarajevo would be an important contribution to resolving this task. This would help remove the danger of foreign military intervention and the escalation of military actions fraught with serious consequences for peace and stability in the whole region. It was pointed out during the conversation that the recent decision by NATO on the possibility of air strikes on Bosnian Serb positions would damage the Bosnian talks' process. Both sides stressed that a political framework for the Bosnian settlement is the only sensible path to peace and stability in this region and there is no alternative to this path.

At a meeting with Russian journalists in Belgrade, Vitaliy Churkin stressed that the main task of his new trip to the republics of the former Yugoslavia is to prevent strikes against the positions of the Bosnian Serbs. With this objective, he intends in the next few days to visit Zagreb, and also the Serbian and, possibly, Muslim parts of Sarajevo in order to study the situation there first hand and to find out the opinions of the UN forces command. The Russian diplomat pointed, in particular, to the need to learn such an important detail as the deployment of the sides' heavy artillery. NATO, he said, is demanding the withdrawal of the Serbian artillery 20 km from Sarajevo, but the Serbian side states it has reached an agreement with Yasusi Akashi, the UN Secretary General's special envoy in the former Yugoslavia, not on a withdrawal but on the transfer of its artillery over to the control of the "blue berets". The Serbian side says that the reason for this is that otherwise it may be left without means of self-defense, which may be used to their advantage by the Muslim formations who are in larger numbers.

It is also necessary to raise the question of stepping up the work of the international commission to investigate the recent tragic incident in the Sarajevan market, V. Churkin went on. It is an unacceptable situation where everyone is outraged, but emotions hold sway over the facts and no one knows who is responsible for the mass deaths of innocent civilians. In his opinion, if it can be established that it was not the Serbs who did this, then this may affect progress in the negotiations process, since the Muslim side would have to go back on its extreme demands and come to an understanding.

The Russian diplomat welcomed a greater degree of involvement of the United States in the process of the Bosnian settlement, because a major lever has thus appeared for putting pressure on the Muslim side and drawing it towards peace accords. He also advocated a realistic approach in terms of not asking too much from the Serb side. Bosnian Serbs have already made major concessions, agreeing first to ensure that Muslims have 30 percent, now put up to 33.3 percent of the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, he said. They have no more flexibility left, and only a new, more acceptable for all sides "geometry of the territorial division" can be now discussed.

Asked by ITAR-TASS whether Russia possesses at present political implements that would stop NATO from strikes against positions of Bosnian Serbs, Vitaliy Churkin said that the West is attempting to interpret in its own way texts of previous resolutions of the UN Security Council on Bosnia, claiming that NATO can act without a further discussion in the Security Council. We believe that such a crucial step must be discussed. In fact, the West began acting through NATO, rather than through the UN, fearing a Russian veto. I have an impression, however, that nobody has an interest in seeing the situation aggravated, and a peaceful settlement will be reached, the Russian diplomat said in conclusion.

Says Geneva Talks on Bosnia Unsuccessful

LD1302182494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] Vitaliy Churkin, Russian deputy foreign minister and presidential special envoy, has called the last round of Geneva talks on Bosnia "the most unsuccessful" one, but the negotiating process will continue, and Russia diplomacy intends to play an active role in this, he stated in an interview with RIA.

On Tuesday [15 February], the Bosnian problem will be discussed at talks in Moscow with British Prime Minister John Major, and on Friday Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will have a meeting in Athens with his counterparts from Greece, Germany, and Belgium, and then possibly with representatives of the United States.

Vitaliy Churkin himself had talks in Belgrade today with President of Serbia Slobodan Milosevic. He will have a meeting in Skopje tomor[illegible]ith President of Macedonia Kiro Gligorov, and [illegible]hen leave for Sarajevo to assess the situation and ta[illegible]h the Bosnian leadership.

Country Unable To React to NATO Decision

MK1202111094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Feb 94 p 1, 3

[Aleksandr Anin report under the "Opinion" rubric: "Bosnian Crisis: What Should Russia Do? Why Could the U.S. President Not Contact the Russian One?"]

[Text] Bill Clinton said that he could not reach Boris Yeltsin due to technical reasons to discuss the latest turn in the Bosnian crisis. This may mean two things: either the Russian president is on his deathbed, or he has nothing to say to his American counterpart.

I do not believe that Boris Yeltsin's announced slight indisposition has even the slightest bearing on his loss of speech. Hence, the "technical reasons" must be related to the proposed NATO air strikes on Serb positions in Bosnia. What matters is not so much that the Russian president cannot say "Yes" in principle, but a bombing strike in response to his "No" would have greatly damaged the Russian leader's prestige. The consequences of a punitive solution to the Bosnian crisis could be incomparably more serious that moral damage, even if it was done to a head of state.

One may guess as long as one wishes about the peacemaking potential of the NATO action. In what may turn out to be its immediate effect, however, the Serbs may start hunting the UN "blue helmets" and start out-and-out guerrilla warfare. Then the "Atlantists'" next step would be to bring ground troops into the region, troops that are capable, unlike a peacekeeping contingent, of carrying out full-blown combat operations. In practice this will amount to the West's war to eliminate the Serb people. Neither more nor less—simply because the Serbs do not surrender (there has not been such a thing in their history) and, having earned a reputation of a guerrilla people, they would fight to the last man.

And then Russia will have to make a choice. Either, staying neutral, to take part in the Serb-NATO war at the diplomatic level, or to stand up for the underdog and send its troops there. This will be a new big war in which Russia will be effectively left alone against all, because in Bosnia the interests of the "Atlantists" and the Muslim world coincide surprisingly. This third world war would bring about what did not happen in World War I and what was about to happen in World War II: Russia would be crushed and, maybe, would cease to exist as a state. Its territory would be divided into protectorates, the borders of the North and the South would close, and the ruined Orthodox civilization would no longer be there to prevent the two sides from warring, trading, and simply having direct contacts.

There will be no World War III if Russia does not stand up for the Serbs should something happen. To do so, in order to counter the pressure of radicals from among pro-Serb nationalist patriots, the Kremlin will need only to organize a national referendum. "Pan- Slavism" was a new word for those who lived a century and a half ago. For the current generation of the Empire's heirs it is completely unfamiliar. So the results of a referendum featuring a question like "Do the Russians want war?" can be foretold right now.

By doing so Russia will retain its statehood, but its authority in the world would be measured in negative values from that very instance with all the ensuing consequences. After all, nuclear weapons themselves do not guarantee great power status to a state. Without an ideological underpinning an A-bomb is nothing more than a box of matches in the hands of a foolish kid. The ideological underpinning, however, is the so-called postponed threat factor, which is the foundation of modern military-political rivalry. How strong this factor is as an indicator of the strength of one world leader or another can be revealed in a specific crisis situation—those leaders, once broken, would be dismissed as outsiders.

So the position of President Yeltsin, who has a slight indisposition in Zavidovo, is unenviable: Every alley is a dead end. He will probably still talk to Clinton, but there is just one hope left—that NATO will back away from its decision and, contenting itself with effectively meaningless concessions from the Serbs, will not bomb them after all.

Country Faces 'International Isolation' Over Bosnia

PM1102185194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Feb 94 First Edition p 3

[Maksim Yusin article: "Clinton Was Unable To Contact Yeltsin for Two Days. The Bosnian Crisis Has Thrown Moscow Into Confusion"]

[Text] A serious conflict is brewing between Moscow and the West for the first time in 10 years. By rejecting the NATO ultimatum to the Bosnian Serbs and demanding the urgent convening of the UN Security Council, Russia is running the risk of ending up in international isolation.

Of the European states only Greece—the Serbs' traditional ally—has displayed full solidarity with Moscow's position. The distribution of forces in the Security Council is also extremely unfavorable: In the event of a vote 13 out of the 15 Security Council members will support the NATO line, China will abstain, and only Moscow will come out against.

Although it does not look as if there will even be a vote. The United States and its allies disagree with Russia's opinion that a special Security Council resolution is necessary to carry out air operations in Bosnia. Washington, Paris, and London believe that there have been quite enough previous UN decisions, which Russia, incidentally, could have blocked but did not.

Thus Moscow is losing the only real prospect of preventing the implementation of the NATO ultimatum. The further development of events no longer depends on the will of the Kremlin. Whatever bellicose calls are made from the Duma rostrum, Yeltsin cannot fail to realize that Moscow's potential is limited.

Recently, it is true, certain politicians (and not just of a Zyuganov-Zhirinovskiy orientation—Sergey Shakhray, for example) have discoursed in earnest on the possibility of World War III in the event of a strike against the Bosnian Serbs. You really have to possess a rich imagination to imagine that the Russian Government would agree to plunge its people into a nuclear conflict so that Radovan Karadzic's soldiers can calmly lay siege to Sarajevo, stationing their guns 5 km from the city center rather than 20 km away, as the NATO countries demand!

In supporting the Serbs, the Russian authorities are guided chiefly by emotions and the logic of the internal political struggle: Moscow has no serious economic or political interests in Serbia. The possibility cannot be ruled out that Yeltsin and Kozyrev arrived at the conclusion that readiness to resort to a diplomatic conflict with the West would strengthen their positions inside the country. But here it is important not to cross the line where disagreements between allies (this is precisely what Yeltsin has recently been calling Western states) become an unbridgeable gulf.

You get the impression that the Russian president is searching agonizingly for this line. It was no coincidence that Bill Clinton was unable to get through to him by telephone for two days. Moscow replied hardly plausibly that it was "impossible to communicate with Boris Nikolayevich for technical reasons." Most likely Yeltsin simply was not ready to talk with his U.S. colleague. By going quite far in its support for the Serbs, the Kremlin has now been forced to resolve a very complex task: How to prevent a rupture with the West and, at the same time, save face.

Russian diplomacy is in disarray. Signs of a certain softening of the position have already appeared. Yuliy Vorontsov, permanent representative at the United Nations, unexpectedly declared that Moscow would not stand in the way of attempts by NATO aircraft to lift the siege of Sarajevo.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Holds Briefing 10 Feb

Addresses Call for UNSC Meeting

LD1002152994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1400 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Feb—Russia is proposing that the UN Security Council [UNSC] be immediately convened to examine practical ways for the demilitarization of Sarajevo and the introduction of UN administration there. This was stated at a briefing today by Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department.

He said that "Russia proposes that this session be made open for the participation in the discussion not only of Security Council members but also other interested countries, especially those whose interests are in Bosnia and Herzegovina."

The Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the NATO Council had adopted a statement on the problem of the Bosnian crisis. In it the Council urged all the sides—Serbs and Muslims—to urgently place their heavy armaments in the Sarajevo region under UN control or to remove them from the area. Essentially, this is close to the position taken by Russia that has more than once come out with an initiative for the urgent demilitarization of Sarajevo and the imposition of UN administrative control in that city. In Grigoriy Karasin's opinion, such measures would be a most important step toward a settlement of the Bosnian conflict.

He expressed satisfaction that the NATO Council, like Russia, had reaffirmed its support for talks as the way to a settlement of the conflict in Bosnia. It is precisely this path that demands vigorous pressure on the part of the world community on all the sides involved in the conflict.

Unfortunately, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman believes, in the position of a number of NATO members one can sense an attempt to interpret this pressure as a unilateral ultimatum to the Bosnian Serbs by threatening them with air strikes. The Russian Federation, Grigoriy Karasin stressed, cannot agree with this unilateral approach.

"We are also convinced," the Russian diplomat said, "that it is the Security Council that must adopt decisions on the problem of lifting the siege of Sarajevo," as Russia proposed two weeks ago. Unfortunately, Russia's proposal was not adopted. G. Karasin said that at the same time, this problem had been put to the NATO council which, as is known, has no authority to adopt decisions on the matter of a Bosnian settlement. The UN secretary general had earlier approached NATO with a proposal to state the alliance's readiness to use aircraft if the United Nations asks for it. A decision on such a request should be adopted by the secretary general following consultations with the Security Council members. This procedure, which has been established by the Security Council, should be rigorously followed, Grigoriy Karasin emphasized.

He noted that a few hours before the announcement of NATO's decision, reports had come in that the Bosnian Serbs and Muslims, through United Nations mediation, had reached agreement on a cease- fire, and had agreed on specific measures for the withdrawal of armaments from Sarajevo. "Hasty decisions outside the framework of the United Nations carry the risk of wrecking this encouraging process. Progress toward a settlement is possible only if neither side gains advantage while the demilitarization measures are being carried out by UN forces," the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed.

Satisified With Russian-Ukrainian Talks

LD1002155194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1437 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Mikhail Voronenkov]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Feb—The Russian Federation's Foreign Ministry is satisfied with the preliminary results of the Russian- Ukrainian talks on implementing the results of the January meeting between the Presidents of Russia, the United States, and Ukraine. This was said at a briefing today by Grigoriy Karasin, the director of the Department of Information and Press of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

At the talks, that took place in Kiev on 8th and 9th February, a package of documents was agreed between the Russian Federation and Ukraine on measures to implement the trilateral Russian-U.S.- Ukrainian accords. The drafts of these documents will be presented for examination by the Russian Federation leaders and Ukraine.

"There are good grounds to suppose," Grigoriy Karasin stressed, "that after the documents are examined and confirmed by the leadership of Russia and Ukraine, they can become an undoubted benefit for both states and for the whole of the international community."

Russia's state delegation at the talks on 8th and 9th February in Kiev was headed by Yuriy Dubinin, roving ambassador of the Russian Foreign Ministry. The Ukrainian delegation was headed by Valeriy Shmarov, deputy prime minister of Ukraine.

Comments on Kozyrev at UNGA

LD1002181394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1512 GMT 10 Feb 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Report by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoi and others]

[Text] A spokesman for Russia's Foreign Ministry, Grigoriy Karasin, said at Thursday's [10 February] briefing in Moscow that the head of Russian diplomacy, Andrey Kozyrev, in his capacity of chairman of the CIS Foreign Ministers Council, had requested the UN Secretary-General to include in the agenda of the 48th General Assembly session the issue of granting the CIS the status of observer at the General Assembly.

According to Kozyrev, the status of observer at the General Assembly would make it possible to strengthen interaction between the CIS and the UN in real terms.

Karasin also said that UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali will be on a visit in Moscow between the 1st and the 5th of April.

During his visit he will discuss the ways to strengthen cooperation between Russia and the UN with a view to raising the effectiveness of the UN, and building up its potential in securing peace, stability and international cooperation, Karasin said.

Sensations or "historic breakthroughs" can hardly be expected from the official visit to Russia to be paid by the British Prime Minister, John Major, on February 14-16, Karasin said.

According to him, Moscow believes that the talks between President Boris Yeltsin and John Major will consolidate Russian- British partnership.

Britain is one of the Western powers particularly active and consistent in their efforts to support economic reforms in Russia, promote free-market relations and implement extensive social programs in our country, Karasin noted.

Besides Moscow, the British prime minister will visit Nizhny Novgorod, a major center of reviving Russian entrepreneurship, he said.

Karasin also said that Russia's Foreign Ministry prepared and submitted to the State Duma a list of international treaties and agreements to be ratified by Russia's Federal Assembly.

International agreements and treaties to be given top priority in the process of ratification are singled out in the 105-point list. They include documents regulating Russia's relations with such countries as Austria, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Germany, Greece, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Slovakia, the USA, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Czechia, Estonia, and others. "Some of the documents included in the list concern disarmament issues (chemical arms, START-II), confidence-building measures (open skies), and Russia's joining a number of international conventions and protocols," Karasin said.

According to him, the Foreign Ministry has also submitted to the State Duma its proposals on working out over 20 draft bills, including those on international agreements, on diplomatic service, on procedures connected with Russia's participation in peacekeeping activity sponsored by the UN, the CSCE, and the CIS, and others.

Crimea's Meshkov Arrives To 'Build Bridges'

LD1002140194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 10 Feb 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The POSTFACTUM Agency reports that Yuriy Meshkov, the recently elected president of the Republic of Crimea, arrived in Moscow last night. The president of Crimea is being accompanied on his trip by a very small group of his closest aides and advisers.

The program for his visit includes meetings and talks with deputies in Russia's State Duma and with individual members of the Russian Government. The president of Crimea's visit to Moscow is not an official one: In the words of one of Yuriy Meshkov's closest aides, this is not really a visit, rather a trip to Moscow by the president of Crimea to build bridges toward economic cooperation between Russia and Crimea. How long Yuriy Meshkov spends in Moscow will be determined by how the talks and meetings with Russia's leaders go.

No Talks With Yeltsin

LD1002153294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1430 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—No plans have been made for a meeting between President Boris Yeltsin and newly elected President Yuriy Meshkov of Crimea in the near future, Russian presidential spokesman Anatoliy Krasikov told ITAR-TASS on Thursday [10 February]. The statement followed mass media reports that Meshkov was planning to visit Moscow for talks with Yeltsin. Krasikov said that the Russian leader has a cold and is working at his countryside house.

Grants Interview

LD1302224894 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1220 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Interview with Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov with moderator Andrey Skryabin, correspondent Lyudimila Olegovna Telen of MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI, and Mayak commentator Yuliy Semenov in Moscow; from the "Live Dialogue" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Skryabin] Hello, esteemed viewers. The guest on "Live Dialogue" today is Yuriy Aleksandrovich Meshkov, the first president of the Republic of Crimea. May I congratulate you on your election and wish you all the best.

[Meshkov] Thank you, Andrey Georgiyevich.

[Skryabin] I would like to introduce my colleagues working with me in the studio today. They are Lyudmila Olegovna Telen, commentator for the MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI newspaper, and Yuliy Aleksandrovich Semenov, commentator for Mayak radio. I am Andrey Skryabin, commentator for Ostankino television. [passage omitted]

Your questions, please.

[Telen] Yuriy Aleksandrovich, you have become the first president of the Republic of Crimea within the composition of Ukraine. All the same, however, everyone knows that the disputes surrounding Crimea's status have not yet abated. They were especially acute during your electoral campaign. Every candidate running for this top post had his own special view on the status of Crimea. How do you see this status, and how do you intend to act?

[Meshkov] The status is defined in the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea—the Constitution that was adopted on 6 May 1992. Then, as you know, there were some changes in the contents of the Constitution. There were some illegal changes, but the genuine and first Constitution of the Republic of Crimea says that mutual relations between the Republic of Crimea and Ukraine are built on the basis of treaties and agreements. These are reasonable, normal, and civilized relations between republics.

[Skryabin] Continuing from what you have just said, there is persistent talk in the media—in Ukraine, in particular—about a federal and territorial organization of Ukraine. How do you see the possibility of such a federal organization of Ukraine and, accordingly, of Crimea being part of the federation?

[Meshkov] Well, first of all, this is economically based, and there is an economic need for the federalization of

Ukraine. Initially, the idea was rejected completely, but now it is winning support in Ukraine. I expect the Kuchma-Grinev bloc will use a similar proposal to reorganize the state. The bloc is gathering strength, and obviously there will be a chance to implement this proposed federal organization of Ukraine.

[Telen] Do you expect that, in that case, some sort of federation treaty would be signed within a Ukrainian framework, or would the relations between Kiev and the future territories be built on the basis of some sort of bilateral relations?

[Meshkov] Well, that is the Ukrainian leadership's problem, and the way the question is solved will depend on which forces win at the elections for the Supreme Soviet and then for the Ukrainian president.

[Semenov] Yuriy Aleksandrovich, I would like to join my question with a comment by viewer Mukhamed Minachev, a Muscovite. [passage omitted]

He makes an interesting remark: It is one thing to be a candidate and to make biting statements during an election campaign, and another when you become an elected president who has to make responsible decisions. People following events closely have noted a certain change in the nuances of your position. For instance, your electoral campaign focused on the idea of Crimean independence. How do you think this idea looks now, and how can it be implemented? [passage omitted]

[Meshkov] Yuriy Aleksandrovich, the question already contains part of the answer: Naturally, I have a lesser degree of freedom now. It is sad but true that an official has less opportunity to make frank—or if you like, sharp—statements. They have to correspond more to the real political situation, and they must take into account anticipated changes in the situation. This responsibility leaves less room for maneuver. That does not mean, however, renouncing declared principles and aims. The methods and forms of implementation may undergo certain changes, but not the content. [passage omitted]

[Telen] All the same, let us come back to the referendum question. What is your attitude toward this idea? How realistic is its implementation? And, perhaps the most acute question, what does Crimean independence mean if the question is put to a referendum?

[Meshkov] It is as realistic as the implementation of a law on a referendum is realistic. The question of independence is not being posed at the level of independence as separation. It is based on a directly opposite idea—the separation or tendency toward separation of the Ukrainian economy from the Russian economy. We stated quite emphatically right from the outset that this would be ruinous for Ukraine. Reality has more than confirmed even our most gloomy fears. What is now happening to the Ukrainian economy is hard to bear for both the people of Ukraine and the people of Crimea. The question is formulated as follows, however: Are you in favor of an independent Republic of Crimea in union with other states? The main point in holding a referendum and implementing its results lies precisely in the words at the end of the question: in union with other states. That is to say, this is our natural and understandable economically-based desire to be united with the economic zone of Russia and the CIS countries and Ukraine too, but on a fundamentally new basis, which takes the interests of the Republic of Crimea into account to a maximum degree.

[Skryabin] Thank you, and my colleagues—and, Yuriy Aleksandrovich, permit me to read out a number of questions, which have come from television viewers and I have put together.

[Meshkov] Please do, I am ready.

[Skryabin] Georgiy Alekseyevich Tukhmanov from Moscow asks whether you are not worried about finding yourself in the situation of the self-proclaimed Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh and that that is where it started too—if Karabakh was given to Azerbaijan in 1921 then the Crimea was given by Khrushchev in 1956. Please respond to this analogy put to you respectfully from the Muscovite Tukhmanov—this is his question.

[Meshkov] Dear Georgiy Alekseyevich, my reply to you will be as follows: Unfortunately, you have been affected by a campaign around Crimea that is on the conscience of certain people working in the media, a campaign to compare the situation in Crimea with the hot spots on the territory of the former USSR.

There are no grounds whatsoever for this. Thank God, there are no preconditions whatsoever for even the possibility of such a situation evolving in Crimea. I am sure now, especially now, when the people of Crimea expressed their will unanimously—you know the figures, of course, what powerful support the first Crimean president and his program received—this rules out any precondition whatsoever for this inside Crimea.

As for outside, there is a danger of some forces outside Crimea imposing some instability on us and making attempts to organize confrontation. But these forces are so insignificant and odious that one is not really seriously afraid of them.

So, Georgiy Alekseyevich, you can plan your next vacation in Crimea. I invite you and your family to Crimea which is and will be peaceful, completely peaceful.

[Skryabin] That is if you have enough money.

[Meshkov] Well, that is another matter.

[Skryabin] Yuriy Alekseyevich Tkachenko gives his phone number: How will you form your team? I have experience of high-level work in the state administration, I am a Crimean, I am 42-years-old, and am ready to work with you. So how will you form your team?

[Meshkov] I can tell Yuriy Alekseyevich and everyone else that the main criterion of selection is professionalism. My political opponents are stating that the Russia block that I represented in the presidential elections does not have its own team. Now it can be said completely calmly: There is a team. Authoritative experts, well-known in Russia, have agreed to take part in the program of emergence of the economy of the Crimea. And of course, your proposal and the proposals of all those who wish the Crimean Republic well, and who have the forces and intention to carry out their potential in the Crimea, are in the surprising and unique situation now when everyone can give real help and support. We are ready to accept this help and place it in any organization—the government, administration of the president—wherever you can show yourself to your maximum. And thank you for your offer.

[Telen] Could I continue a bit? You said that talks were already being conducted with some people about joining your team and you said these were well-known names. Could you name them?

[Meshkov] You know, I have an urge to present everything literally and share my joy above all with my compatriots in the Crimean Republic and with my compatriots in Russia. But allow me nevertheless, to restrain myself a little. My Moscow program is not yet exhausted and when it is entirely fulfilled I will be able to answer that question.

[Simenov] I think our conversation started rather rosily. I hear you saying that the Crimea is so quiet, come and visit us and so on. But surely you have a crime problem that has in fact grown into a problem of terrorism...

[Meshkov, interrupting] Politic...

[Simenov, continuing]...even political terrorism, and if you will excuse me, even you were hunted by such terrorists. What can you say about this and how do you intend to resolve this problem?

[Meshkov] Yuliy Aleksandrovich, the fact is the hunters and the prey have swapped places since 30 January. And there is every reason, and I can with full responsibility assure all Russians, that by the start of the spa season everything in this sense will be quiet.

It was not a crime problem. It was not a political terrorism problem. It was a problem of power—fragile, helpless, incapable of reacting to change in the surrounding situation. They were people who were always placed in the hierarchical pyramid of power where they were sheltered from above and carried out everything from above, taking it down to the lower strata of the pyramid, but who never took and could not take responsibility upon themselves and could not react to change in the surrounding situation. They could not do anything with that avalanche of crime and outburst of political terrorism which yes, unfortunately, did take place in the Crimea. All that will be stopped by the toughest methods, well of course in the framework of...

[Simenov, interrupting] They were professionals acting on political orders?

[Meshkov] Yes.

[Telen] Yuriy Aleksandrovich, our paper wrote widely about the murder of Andrey Lazebnikov, the Black Sea Fleet press secretary. Naturally, MOSCOW NEWS readers are interested now in how the investigation of this crime is progressing. It was specifically this murder that was evidence of the terror that existed, as you said, in the Crimea. Could you give a more detailed account of it?

[Meshkov] It is premature to give the details because I—restricted by my professional limitations, one could say—cannot talk extensively about an investigation that has not been concluded. This is the more so because the results of an investigation are summed up by the court, as you know. I can say, however, that there is no doubt that it was a political act. There is no doubt that professionals were involved, and attempts were made during the initial stages of the investigation to prevent the officials of the Russian federal services from investigating this case. I can assure you, however, that the presidential administration, and now the state bodies of the republic of Crimea, will give the maximum necessary assistance in investigating, searching for, and punishing the criminals that organized and carried out this act of political terror.

[Skryabin] I see, Lyudmila, that you have a large set of questions on the economy. Nonetheless, this set of questions from our television viewers is, evidently, a considerably larger one, as I can show you now. These are questions connected with the problem of the Tatars, the Crimean Tatars. So I will take the liberty of reading out several questions on behalf of the television viewers that I will ask you to answer.

Idrisov, from the town of Yevpatoriya: Are you going to apologize to the Crimean Tatars for the ethnic genocide carried out by the hand of Moscow in May 1944, as Mr. Kohl has done to the world concerning the Germans? Do you recognize the right of the Crimean Tatars to self-determination? The Crimea is multinational, like Moscow, Ufa, and Kazan, but each nation has a state, a motherland. For the Crimean Tatars, it is the Crimea.

Arkadiy Nikolayevich Semenov asks what your attitude is toward the slogans that can be seen in the Crimea, such as: No to the totalization of the Crimea! Do you not think that this is a fascist slogan?

Ernest Kudusov: Does Mr. Meshkov intend to strive to gain the acknowledgement and respect of the indigenous contingent of the Crimean population? It voted against him. If that is his intention, what steps is he going to take? What solution do you envisage for the settlement of the Crimean Tatar problem?

Well, there are many other questions. Galina Romanovna Batskevich: What does the Crimean president think about relations with a small, indigenous Crimean people—the Crimean Tatars?

Ismet Khalyukovich Sheykh-Zade asks how you envisage relations with the indigenous people? Well, and so on. Is there a program for the return of the Crimean Tatars? There are many, many more questions.

[Meshkov] it is an extremely serious question because it touches upon the most painful and sensitive—and widely exploited—ethnic feelings. I can say to Mr. Idrisov that neither Moscow, nor I, as Crimean president, nor the citizens of the Republic of Crimea have any reasons for apologizing for those illegal measures in which he sees the hand of Moscow. It was not the hand of Moscow, but an absolutely concrete policy of the thing that we call a totalitarian regime. The situation has no comparison with the situation of Mr. Kohl and the German people.

The Republic of Crimea is a multinational republic. There is no reason to single out or isolate any ethnic group on any grounds. We would never have achieved peace and accord in the Crimea. We have achieved these, and the president and the state authorities will make every effort to preserve this national peace. The basis for it is an equal attitude toward all the citizens of the Republic of Crimea, without exceptions. There can be no question of us singling out an ethnic group and, moreover, giving it political powers on the grounds of its ethnicity. I have not seen the slogan—No to the Tatarization of the Crimea—in all the time that I have lived in the Crimea on any wall or any poster, and I travel all the time. So let Mr. Semenov have this slogan that he cited on his conscience.

As for the claim that the Crimean Tatars unanimously voted against the Russia bloc representative and against me as a candidate for the presidency of the Republic of Crimea, this is an erroneous statement and does not correspond to the facts. Moreover, I can say that numerous branches and groups within the Crimean Tatars' national movement openly proclaimed their support. They were openly saying that they supported my candidacy. At some polling stations, thousands out of a 2,000-strong [figure as heard] electorate, thousands of Crimean Tatars voted for me. This is a problem of relations between the powers that have gone and the bosses of the Crimean national movement and the leadership of the Majles. That is their problem. It is not a problem of relations between the president and the Crimean Tatars, citizens of the republic of Crimea.

This is because in the presidential administration—and I can say this—key posts are occupied by Professor Memetov, whom I deeply respect and who is in charge of a very important part of the administration. (Anife Situmer Kyzy Ilyasova) is in one of the key posts. This is normal and should be so, and it is. As to what future decision will be made and whether there is a program, I, in particular, demanded that such a program should be adopted. I demanded that the process of the return of the Crimean Tatars should be based on an officially adopted program. It was not adopted, and with the exception of sops that were even insulting to some extent—nothing was implemented.

I have said before and I can confirm now that the state must compensate for damage it inflicted on its citizens and for the damage it inflicted on the citizens of the Republic of Crimea—on the Crimean Tatar nationality, in particular. This is one of the topics at the talks I am having here in Moscow. I do not know yet. I cannot tell you what the final result will be. I have asked, however, for 50 billion rubles for this program.

[Skryabin] Thank you.

[Semenov] Lets talk about the economy. One of your slogans during the election campaign was the wish to set up direct economic ties with Russia, to enrich them, and maybe even to join the ruble zone. How do you envisage this? In particular, do you see the ruble as a national monetary unit? And what about the karbovanets? Do you understand what can happen to the Crimean financial market if both currencies are used simultaneously? And, in general, what is the general concept, at least the main points?

[Meshkov] I understand, Yuliy Aleksandrovich. I gather from your question that you are more concerned, not with what will happen to the ruble, but with what will happen to the karbovanets? That is nearer the truth. Well, so far they will circulate simultaneously. The Kiev administration and a top official have agreed to the circulation of the ruble in the Crimea. We have drawn up and prepared all that is needed for the implementation of the program for the ruble to be a means of payment in the Crimea. So the preparations can proceed smoothly, and I hope no political intrigues over the Crimea will hinder the restoration of Crimea's economy and the presence of the ruble in our republic. There is already a bank for this presence....

[Semenov, interrupting] I just wanted to ask what are the functions of the bank?

[Meshkov, continuing] ... with its definite functions, the function of monitoring money circulation in the Crimea, the function of permission, i.e. the registration of banks of other republics on Crimean territory. With respect to the budget and the taxes, all 100 percent will remain in the Republic of Crimea. Only the joint programs of Ukraine and the Crimea will be financed. Such will be the first steps.

[Semenov] That is a precedent.

[Meshkov] I hope that this will help to implement the general tendencies that unite the economic space. This will happen inevitably. The Republic of Crimea is marching forward.

[Telen] Yuriy Aleksandrovich, excuse me, but I do not quite understand the setup for Crimea's entry into the ruble zone, because an accord with Kiev allowing the use of a parallel currency is one thing, while agreement with Russia is something else. After all, Russia is the center issuing the currency, and apparently you are counting on receiving rubles from Russia.

[Meshkov] Well, naturally there is nowhere else to get them, but we will not be obtaining them through any issues by the Central Bank of Russia. We will be getting them as a result of normal economic relations—by fulfilling orders, providing services to the Navy, and marketing, say, those material values that will be freed as a result of conversion. This will include the supply of our own goods and our own agricultural produce and also, I hope, a strong influx of tourists and what we call holidaymakers, with their rubles, during the holiday period in Crimea.

Indeed, everyone with cash rubles will feel very comfortable since the exchange relationship of the ruble to the coupon is, as you know, approximately at a ratio of one ruble to 30 coupons. That is to say, all of this will help us to tackle this problem without holding out our hand and without sacrificing Russia's good relationship toward Crimea to the need for issuing currency and to a complication of the economic situation in Russia. This is all a chain of actions steadily bringing us back into a unified economic zone without any complication of the situation in Russia and without any conflict situations in Crimea.

[Skryabin] Following on from that question, what should come via you?

[Meshkov] Since the fleet is situated on the territory of the Republic of Crimea, the financing of the fleet should naturally be via the Republic of Crimea. [passage omitted]

I regard it as my primary duty to defend the legal rights and interests of the citizens of the Republic of Crimea, and what strength I have will be put into carrying out that defense, above all, in the economic sphere. [passage omitted]

[Telen] All the same, let me go back to the ruble zone. Have any, at least preliminary, talks been held with the Russian leadership, with the Russian Government, with the financial circles and the Russian bank on the introduction of the ruble in Crimea?

[Meshkov] This program has been talked about with specialists of the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and Crimea. The specialists have reached agreement and have devised a unified and streamlined program. It will be implemented with the help of Ukrainian specialists and Ukrainian banks and by relying on the Ukrainian economy. Of course, it will be done primarily by relying on Russian banks—by that, I mean commercial banks—and on relations with the Russian economy and Russian specialists.

[Telen] Yuriy Aleksandrovich, I am sorry to be so persistent, but are these specialists or officials?

[Meshkov] Lyudmila Olegovna. Until we have finally decided the press release and the communique on the results of the talks, I (?cannot) answer this question. I realize that it worries and concerns you. It worries the citizens of Crimea just as much; however, I can reassure them. The fact is that results have been achieved that exceed the hopes with which I went to Moscow. [passage omitted]

[Semenov] How do you see the future of the fleet? And, in your idea of the structure of Crimea, do you think there is a special role or special status for Sevastopol? [passage omitted]

[Meshkov] Regarding the problem of the fleet, I was reproached for saying one thing before the election campaign and subsequently making a completely contrary statement. My remarks to the effect that the problem of the fleet had been resolved by the presidents were cited. The problem of the fleet has indeed been resolved by the presidents. I mean the Massandra agreement. However, it has to be implemented. If the principle of international law that treaties should be implemented exists and is recognized by the Ukrainian leadership, then this treaty, this agreement, should be implemented. It envisages a single Russian Black Sea Fleet.

This fully reflects the interests of the Republic of Crimea. Our naval seamen—we will not divide them—will have the maximum protection that is provided for citizens of the Republic of Crimea. Regarding the Sevastopol permit system, it is unnatural, abnormal. We will, of course, be removing this abnormality.

The issue of dual citizenship is urgent and will be resolved by a law on dual citizenship. This, of course, requires coordination with the Russian Federation. Russia put forward an initiative long ago. The Ukrainian Government has a draft on dual citizenship proposed by Russia, but it has been put on the back burner and has not yet been examined. I think the Republic of Ukraine could resolve the citizenship problem more quickly. [passage omitted]

[Telen] Is the Crimean leadership willing to some extent to share the burden of some of these problems with Russia? Does Crimea have the financial resources?

[Meshkov] Regarding financial resources, let me say straightaway that it does not. As for sharing the burden of maintaining the Black Sea Fleet, yes, it will. Crimea is as committed as possible to this because the presence of the Black Sea Fleet in the Republic of Crimea is a guarantee, a long-term guarantee, of stability and peace in Crimea. [passage omitted]

[Telen] Some of Russia's nationalistic organizations see Crimea as a base for themselves and a chance to apply their forces. How dangerous is Russian nationalism to Crimea?

[Meshkov] Fortunately—and thank God that I live in Crimea and that the citizens of our republic also live in Crimea—a thousand years of Crimean history prove that Crimea has never had what is described as interethnic strife. All waves of nationalism, irrespective of where they came from, subsided on approach to Crimea. They found no support here. The nationalistic forces can count on no support at all, or on the support of 3 percent of the people at the most, if the circumstances are extremely favorable. There is no nationalism in Crimea, and there never will be, God forbid.

[Skryabin] Can I ask you the last question? It is not a very serious question, but I think it might be of interest to many people. During the August 1991 putsch, you were the first person who tried to get into Gorbachev's dacha. As far as I know, they simply did not let the future Crimean president in.

[Meshkov] They even arrested me.

[Skryabin] Yes, arrested you. What is happening now to Gorbachev's dacha? Presidents seem to be superstitious, and nobody wants to move in. Nonetheless, something is going to be done with it, right?

[Meshkov] Nobody, including me, wants to live in Mikhail Sergeyevich's dacha. I really tried to help him against the will of our Supreme Soviet and its head. Moreover, I even resorted to open insults. I told them: It is your general secretary there, after all. Forget that you are officials and act as communists at least. You must change the situation, and you must help him. Mikhail Sergeyevich was probably aware who did what—when and how. Yes, I was actually arrested during that attempt, but everything turned out all right.

The interest in Gorbachev's dacha in Crimea is very great. It should, of course, belong wholly to the Crimean Republic. At present, it is not used for recreational purposes, and no one wants to use it as a holiday place. As for us—I mean the Crimean republic—we should do everything we can to turn it into a site for the general public. Such interest and such attention exist. After all, people should be allowed to see what they want to see. Gorbachev's dacha should be opened to the public, since it is no longer an individual's property but a symbol of the entire period in our history. The Crimea is rich in symbols and monuments, and this one should be added to them. [passage omitted]

[Skryabin] A question from Anna Grigoryevna Kulakova. Do you think that the same tactics are used both in Abkhazia and in Crimea—namely, first to cut off these territories and then hand them over to Russia?

[Meshkov] I do not think so. This is not the expansionism and imperial manner of the Russia of the past, but a natural desire of the former regions and the present regions that are detached from the single economic area. This is an economic problem. If this problem is resolved, all political problems will disappear. [passage omitted]

I would like to answer a question that you have given to me. [reads questions] Who are you going to be with: Russia, or Ukraine, or on your own? Give a detailed answer, please.

The independence of the Crimean republic is a guarantee that we will resolve our economic problems.

[Skryabin] Yuriy Aleksandrovich, as we agreed with you, you have one minute left until the end of the program to say what you want.

[Meshkov] Esteemed Russians, dear citizens of the Crimean republic. I would like to share with you the feeling of joy that I have experienced during my stay here. I have been given an extremely welcome reception here, and I have experienced an extremely cordial attitude here. I would like to stress that all this will soon be implemented in specific steps in the sphere of culture and in the sphere of strengthening our indissoluble ties. I thank everybody who has been watching the program and also its participants. Thank you.

[Skryabin] Yuriy Aleksandrovich, thank you for making time to attend our program. I thank our viewers for their questions. Unfortunately, it was not possible to answer all questions sent to us, but I will hand them over to you, if you do not mind. All the best.

Ukraine's Position on Nuclear Arms Still Unclear

LD1102212994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1758 GMT 11 Feb 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] The Ukrainian parliament's position on the nuclear arms issue remains "unclear" to Russia, a senior Russian source said.

Yuriy Dubinin, head of the Russian delegation to negotiations with Ukraine, told Interfax: "It is still difficult to make out what kind of decision on the START-I treaty the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine took on February 4, 1994, and why it preferred not to immediately join the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons."

On Monday, Dubinin said in an interview with Interfax that there were several moot points in the Ukrainian legislature's resolution ratifying START-I. It is unclear, for example, what proportion of the nuclear weapons stationed in Ukraine are to be destroyed. "There hasn't been any more clarity since Monday," Dubinin said.

He said Russian-Ukrainian talks which took place in Kiev and ended on Thursday had been held "in a good atmosphere and produced positive results." In particular, agreement was reached on a package of documents to provide for measures to implement the Moscow

January 14 accord between the presidents of Russia, the United States and Ukraine, under which America is to provide funds for the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Ukraine and their dismantling, while Ukraine is to receive compensation.

Dubinin declined to go into details about the results of the Kiev negotiations, which, he said, had to be reported to President Boris Yeltsin before being made public. "We hope the drafts will be approved by Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk and will help to find a final solution to the problem of the nuclear weapons stationed on Ukrainian territory," he said.

The Ukrainian delegation to the Kiev talks included Deputy Premier Valeriy Shmarov and Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Tarasyuk.

Kozyrev Cited on Talks in Almaty

PM1102114194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Feb 94 p 1

[Aleksandr Pelts and Anatoliy Ladin report: "Time for Disagreements Is Past. Results of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's Tour of Central Asian Republics"]

[Text] A joint Russian and Uzbek Foreign Ministry statement issued 9 February in Tashkent reflects their principled stance on Afghanistan, where, as you know, an armed fight for power is flaring up with renewed vigor. In addition to expressing profound concern at events in the neighboring state, the statement reaffirms the principles of strict neutrality and noninterference in the internal affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Andrey Kozyrev also discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest during his conversation with Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev. He discussed problems involved in preparing for the meeting of the Commonwealth heads of state too. What is more, it was decided to set up working groups to seek a solution to the most burning problems in relations between the two countries.

Asked by your KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent about the results of his talks in Almaty, Andrey Kozyrev replied that he did not have the task of signing any documents. It was a question of preparing a whole package of treaties and agreements. Primarily on Russian-Kazakhstani military cooperation. The sides discussed the possibility of dismantling the nuclear weapons stationed on Kazakhstan's territory and taking them back to Russia. While agreeing, Kozyrev stressed, appropriate compensation for the strategic nuclear materials. It was likewise deemed necessary to formulate an agreement on legal and humanitarian questions, including a treaty on citizenship. And a number of other documents dealing with the problems of the Russian-speaking population. The issue of joint use of the Baykonur cosmodrome was discussed separately.

"My task," the Russian foreign minister said, "was to discuss these matters in detail with the Kazakhstani side and give President Nazarbayev a personal message from Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, which I did."

Andrey Kozyrev expressed the hope that when the bilateral agreements are signed the scope for demagoguery over many difficult issues will be exhausted. He pointed to the total coincidence of views on a whole series of matters under discussion.

Andrey Kozyrev visited the Baykonur cosmodrome 10 February.

Disagreements Seen Persisting Over Baykonur

PM1402120394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Feb 94 First Edition p 3

[Konstantin Eggert report: "Moscow Continues Fight for Baykonur"]

[Text] Baykonur-Moscow—Baykonur, the world's biggest space rocket complex, still remains the subject of disagreements between Moscow and Almaty. The visit to the cosmodrome and the satellite city of Leninsk by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his Kazakhstani counterpart Tuleutay Suleymenov, which was the final item on the program of the Russian diplomatic head's visit to Kazakhstan, confirmed yet again that only Presidents Yeltsin and Nazarbayev will be able to secure a definitive solution of the Baykonur problem.

In 1993 the Russian Defense Ministry spent 47 billion rubles [R] on Baykonur. According to the military, at least R259 billion will be required this year, but only R6 billion have been received so far. Almaty, which according to the interstate agreements assumes 6 percent of the estimated costs, has not paid a ruble so far this year.

Two militias and two judicial systems operate in Leninsk. There is no Russian security service at the military facilities—all the special personnel are under the command of Almaty. Senior Lieutenant Chugunov, a representative of the special department, rather unceremoniously threw the press out of the building where "Soyuz" and "Progress" complexes are prepared for flights. Mentioning Kozyrev's name was no help.

Baykonur has become the object of a sharp struggle not only between Russia and Kazakhstan but also between various departments in Moscow. Until recently there was the idea of transferring the cosmodrome to an international consortium with the participation of Western investors. However, at a session of the Russian Government Presidium in December it was decided to concentrate on the proposals of the Defense Ministry, which advocates leasing Baykonur and turning it formally into a facility run under bilateral cooperation arrangements but effectively into a Russian military base. The principle of leasing was enshrined in a special protocol by the prime ministers of Russia and Kazakhstan.

The arguments of Pavel Grachev's department are as follows: The lion's share of work under Russia's military space program is carried out at Baykonur, and commercialization of the cosmodrome would be a painful blow to it. Moreover, Russian and Western technologies in this sphere are often incompatible.

However, there is also an alternative opinion which holds that the "internationalization" of Baykonur could be carried out without detriment to Russian strategic interests, but the Military Space Forces command is opposed to this since in this situation, unlike ordinary military specialists, it would essentially be out of a job. If it lost control of Baykonur, it would be forced to content itself with running the small Plesetsk cosmodrome on the Kola Peninsula and the moribund Kapustin Yar test site. "General Ivanov, commander of the Russian Military Space Forces, and his subordinates want to reduce the cosmodrome to such a state that the Kazakhs will themselves say: 'Take it.' Then it will be possible to obtain from Moscow credits whose use it will be very difficult to monitor," one civilian resident of Leninsk believes. He claimed that the servicemen were instructed to show Kozyrev the blackest picture, to lay it on thick, and to complain about the civilian administration of Leninsk.

Be that as it may, the Russian-Kazakhstani talks about the future of Baykonur will proceed with particular intensity over the next few weeks. According to information from diplomatic sources, Moscow is intending to propose that a 30-year term be set for the lease contract. Fundamental disagreements remain over the question of the rental. Unofficially Kazakhstani experts have mentioned to their Russian colleagues a sum of $3.5 billion this year, plus compensation for environmental damage over the previous two years. Unquestionably the main task of Almaty, which is incapable of implementing an independent aerospace program today, is to make a lot of money out of Baykonur. Smolenskaya Square believes such terms to be unacceptable, stating that there can be no question of payments in hard currency.

Kozyrev, Tajik Premier Discuss Tajik Problems

LD1102203794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1804 GMT 11 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Feb—"We have discussed the most topical issues of political life in the republic and those problems that exist around Tajikistan, with the aim of stabilizing political activity and attracting all forces interested in Tajikistan's prosperity, or at least in Tajikistan overcoming the political and economic crisis," Abduzhalil Samadov, chairman of Tajikistan Council of Ministers, told journalists today after a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

Answering a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent, the Tajikistan Council of Ministers chairman said that significant progress was reached in the development of bilateral ties between the republic and its Central Asian neighbors. Working groups have been set up at an intergovernment level. They will deal with developing trade and economic cooperation between the states and we believe that this will inevitably lead to positive results.

In Andrey Kozyrev's view, it is necessary to work together in order not to miss currently available opportunities in the settlement of the crisis in Tajikistan. "The prospects for such settlement," the Russian minister stressed, "will depend totally on the purposefulness and coordination of our actions." He said that he had discussed these issues during his recent tours of the countries of the region and with other Commonwealth states.

In the opinion of the Russian minister, by joining efforts and "by relying on the realistic and business-like approach of Tajikistan's leadership," it is possible to make these prospects both real and peaceful and find a way out of the crisis. "It is possible to resolve this complex problem by joining efforts," the minister stressed. "There was great confidence in this respect."

Lukin Says Estonia Regards Part of Pskov as Its Own

MK1102095594 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 11 Feb 94 p 1

[INTERFAX report: "Russian Federation Parliament Representatives Anxious at Situation on Russia-Estonia Border"]

[Text] All residents of Pechorskiy Rayon of the Russian Federation's Pskov Oblast are being "issued Estonian passports" according to a "simplified procedure," even without having to pass exams testing their knowledge of the Estonian language, or without certificates on privatization of objects on the rayon's territory. This was stated in a press conference in Moscow on Thursday by Vladimir Lukin, chief of the State Duma international affairs committee, and Vladimir Podoprigora, chairman of a similar Federation Council committee, who both visited the border area the day before. According to Mr. Lukin, the Estonian side, as it refers to the borders established by the 1920 Tartu Peace treaty between the RSFSR and the Estonian Republic, considers this rayon of Russia to be its own territory, which is reflected in its constitution.

UK's Major Interviewed on Upcoming Visit

LD1002220894 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2020 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Report on interview with UK Prime Minister John Major by correspondent Aleksandr Gurnov on 10 February in London]

[Text] [Gurnov] The next Russian-British summit is becoming a reality. The British delegation led by John Major, will depart for Moscow on 14 January [as heard]. The main objective of the talks with our leadership is obvious: to assess the new balance of forces in Russia after all those reshuffles—on the spot. After that, there will be a visit to Nizhnyy Novgorod, which the British view as a model for creating market infrastructure with Western help.

What about British interests? After all, if they are coming to us, they must also want something. We came to Downing Street to ask this question.

[Begin recording] [Gurnov] Mr. Major, there is a lot of talk now about helping Russia, but is there anything Russia can do to help Britain?

[Major, in English with superimposed Russian translation] Russia is an enormous and strong power, and it is in British interests to have good relations with you. Therefore, we are ready to help you try to overcome your difficulties, but you are right. Russia has something to offer, not only to Britain but to the whole world. The president, the prime minister, and I will be discussing this during the summit.

[Gurnov] The British prime minister will be the first Western leader to visit the Kremlin after the NATO decision on Yugoslavia, which was adopted today and which now threatens to mar Russia's relations with the West. In the light of this, what will be John Major's main task in Moscow?

[Major] I would like to stress that NATO is not taking anyone's side in this conflict. We want to find a way to stop the bloodshed while negotiations continue. We have no other option. I am sure that Russia's objective is the same. Because we have similar aims, we have a basis for dialogue. [end recording]

[Gurnov] Moscow's task will be to give Major a message for the Western world at a moment when both our home and foreign policies certainly need explaining; that is, if Russia still wants to continue being a part of this world.

Further on Major Interview

LD1102011494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2256 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS Correspondent Nikolay Pakhomov]

[Text] London, 11 February—"I am, of course, going to Russia with very warm feelings toward the Russian people. I am satisfied with my previous visits to your country and the meetings with Russian leaders I have had here in England." British Prime Minister John Major, who will pay a official visit to Russia on 14-16 February, said this in an interview with ITAR-TASS, Russian TV, and Ostankino. President Yeltsin and I are planning to discuss a wide range of issues that will include the situation in Russia, bilateral relations, and, naturally, a wide range of international problems and economic and political issues, he said. The discussions will be very broad in scope.

John Major stressed that he considered the recent changes in the Russian Government's cabinet to be the business of the Russian people. I and all my colleagues in Great Britain am interested in seeing the continuation of the program of reforms in your country and the achievement of success on the path toward economic prosperity, he said. This is in the interests of Russia, and we too are striving for this. Russia is a great and powerful country and we are interested in having equal relations with it. We are happy to help it in any way we can, but Russia too can offer a great deal to the rest of the world, including Great Britain. I intend to discuss this in Moscow with the Russian president and prime minister, John Major said.

Concerning the situation in the former Yugoslavia, the head of the British Government pointed out that he was looking forward to the talks in Moscow on this problem. We believe the aims of the Russian Government are similar to those the West is also setting itself. We want a halt to the military actions and to the unnecessary and senseless loss of lives. The main aim, which I think is also shared by Russia, is to achieve a political settlement to the conflict through talks, the prime minister stressed.

Official Comments on Visit

LD1202151194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1415 GMT 12 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow February 12 TASS—An official Russian visit of British Prime Minister John Major is expected to result in signing of two intergovernmental documents to consolidate the Russian- British agreement relations, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Second European Department Yuriy Fokin told ITAR-TASS here today.

The finalization of a convention against double taxation is of special importance, as the document will help to regulate economic and financial relations. The second document will be a framework agreement on cooperation in education, science and culture. Both documents have been fully prepared for signing by foreign ministers in the presence of the Russian and British leaders.

In the opinion of the diplomat, there are no serious problems in the Russian-British relations. "All major stumbling stones have been removed," he said.

As for international issues, the Russian Foreign Ministry hopes to discuss the European situation, including the creation of security system and development of Russian relations with "the seven". The latter may become "the eight" in future.

The sides will also focus on Russian and British future actions at the U.N. Security Council or CSCE.

The British prime minister will be informed about the Russian situation and its relations with former Soviet republics. A special item on the agenda will be relations with the Baltic states, where "considerable progress has been achieved".

The Baltic theme will also be analyzed by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Douglas Hurd. The latter will leave Moscow for Riga on February 16 to meet foreign ministers of the three Baltic republics.

"Russia and Great Britain have long discussed the Baltic issue and Russia is grateful for British readiness to help settlement of the remaining problems," said Fokin.

In his words, the negotiations may result in signing of other documents, including those on security.

North Korean Ambassador on Nuclear Facilities

MK1102111094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 11 Feb 94 p 4

[Anastasiya Romashkevich report in the "North Korea and Nuclear Security" column: "Pyongyang Believes that 'The DPRK Cannot Be Strangled With Sanctions'"]

[Excerpt] Yesterday the leadership of the IAEA supported the U.S. Senate's initiative to impose economic sanctions against North Korea. The IAEA and Pyongyang still adhere to opposite views on the possibility of inspecting the two North Korean installations, where, the agency suspects, work is under way to create a nuclear bomb. In such a situation, the possibility of the sides' reaching a compromise appears unlikely.

Pyongyang "has neither the capability nor the wish to create a bomb"

In an exclusive interview with KOMMERSANT-DAILY, North Korea ambassador to Russia, Comrade Son Song-pil stated that Pyongyang, contrary to U.S. assertions, "has neither the capability nor the wish to create a bomb." Up until recently, he noted, the United States, in an effort to justify the conduct of military exercises and to preserve its contingent in the south of the Korean Peninsula, has talked about a threat to South Korea on the part of the USSR and the DPRK. Now there is no USSR, and Washington needs "new excuses." "The essence of the North Korean nuclear problem," the ambassador said, was explained by Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year speech: It is the "product of U.S. hostile policy."

Pyongyang, however, believes that the problem can be resolved only through negotiations with the United States. According to Son Song-pil, immediately after the consultations, a general outline for resolving the problem was delineated. The DPRK promised to suspend its withdrawal from the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, stop using the nuclear reactor with graphite moderator, and freeze all nuclear programs. Washington for its part promised to abandon the policy of "threatening the DPRK" by stopping its joint Team Spirit military exercises with South Korea. At the same time, Pyongyang will agree to IAEA inspection "on a limited scale." As the ambassador noted, however, the IAEA has again "irresponsibly" demanded a full-scale inspection, which does not correspond to North Korea's "special status" under the nonproliferation treaty. The United States, the diplomat believes, not only is not seeking to adjust the IAEA's position, but has actually renounced the obligations it assumed earlier, thereby violating the principle of using a comprehensive approach in dealing with the problem. And now, according to the ambassador, Pyongyang is right to abandon its promises (although the decision to suspend the withdrawal from the treaty still stands). As for the economic sanctions, the DPRK, "which has a powerful industry, will not be stifled." The United States, in the ambassador's opinion, may try to exert pressure by military methods. Washington has already announced its intention to deploy Patriot missiles in South Korea and hold new exercises analogous to Team Spirit. In this event the DPRK, according to the diplomat, will take "adequate measures" (he did not specify which).

Son Song-pil also stated that even in the event of a full-scale inspection (which will become possible only after Pyongyang has returned to the nonproliferation treaty), North Korea will not admit the IAEA to the two installations it wants to inspect. He explained that only nuclear installations are subject to inspection, while these two are not such. [passage omitted]

Envoy Denies DPRK Has Nuclear Weapon Potential

PM1102202794 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 12 Feb 94 p 3

[Interview with Son Song-pil, DPRK ambassador to Russia, by Sergey Turchenko; place and date not given: "Sharpening of Claws. DPRK Ambassador to Russia Son Song-pil Assesses the Military Adventure That Is Being Prepared"]

[Text] In recent days a propaganda campaign directed against North Korea has been surging ahead strongly in the West and on the other side of the ocean. In terms of its scale and tone it is commensurate with what happened on the eve of the ill-starred Desert Storm. Numerous voices are to be heard saying that it is necessary to "punish" the DPRK and "crush" it by military might. The reasoning is the traditional pharisaical reasoning: shouts about some threat to peace in

Northeast Asia supposedly stemming from this small socialist state. Our correspondent met with Comrade Son Song-pil, DPRK ambassador to Russia, and asked him to answer questions connected with these extremely alarming circumstances.

[Turchenko] Comrade Son Song-pil, there can be few people now who would doubt that when the world policeman shouts "Stop thief!" this is nothing but a propaganda smoke screen to conceal from public opinion the machinations going on behind the scenes. Where is the dog buried in this instance?

[Son] In Japan. A powerful nuclear reactor was started up in that country a few days ago. Japan has become capable of producing nuclear weapons. Capacities for the production of 800 tonnes [figure as published] of plutonium a year have been commissioned. In terms of this indicator the Japanese have emerged into third place in the world after the United States and France. On Japanese territory now there is 1.6 tonnes of plutonium, plus it has 2.9 tonnes abroad. Up to 50 tonnes is being forecast by the start of the next millennium. That would be enough to provide 6,200 nuclear weapons. In addition, Japan possesses ICBM's capable of carrying them.

In the past North and South Korea signed a declaration on turning the Korean Peninsula into a nuclear-free zone. We are working to extend this status to the whole of Northeast Asia. But if Japan becomes a nuclear power, that will pose a tremendous threat to the Korean Peninsula, and the said declaration will lose all meaning. Such a militarist step will encourage other countries in the region, including ours, to take appropriate measures. We are convinced that the world community must show vigilance and halt this process in a timely manner. Our Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement on this 4 February. But, instead of exerting appropriate influence over Japan, the United States raised a propaganda ballyhoo over our country, accusing it of what the Japanese ought to have been accused of. The DPRK, however, has neither the intention nor the material potential to produce nuclear weapons.

[Turchenko] This propaganda ballyhoo does not seem to have been raised just to cover Japan's militarist aspirations. Are there any other aims?

[Son] There are several. When the Soviet Union existed, the Americans had military bases in South Korea on the pretext of a supposed threat from the USSR. Now that pretext has fallen away. Now they make a bugaboo out of North Korea so as to provide at least some reason for a military presence in Northeast Asia.

Another aim is connected with the long-standing U.S. desire to destroy our socialist state. In order to create a propaganda base for the use of military force, they accuse us of allegedly not only having long-range missiles ourselves but also selling them to Near East countries, thereby destabilizing the situation. Basing themselves on these propaganda fabrications, U.S. militarist circles insist on military sanctions against the DPRK. I wish to emphasize: Our armed forces are built on the principle of self-defense and threaten no one. On the contrary, proceeding from the essence of the socialist system, the DPRK strives to strengthen peace by all means. It is, however, the firm will of the people and the Army to uphold the country's sovereignty. We are ready for any surprise attack and are always true to our position: to respond to dialogue with dialogue, and to war with war.

[Turchenko] How real is the threat of an attack on the DPRK, and what do you see as the time frame of this sinister prospect?

[Son] The United States is already taking specific steps to this end. In recent days, for example, intensive work has been under way to site U.S. Patriot missiles in South Korea. Unfortunately, I have to state that an attack might be made at any moment.

[Turchenko] Of course, the entire world community is obliged to prevent such a development of events, but the primary duty lies with the countries with which you have treaties of mutual assistance. Please name them.

[Son] We have such treaties, including treaties in military spheres, with China and the USSR. Russia is the successor to the USSR, and our treaty has not lost its force.

[Turchenko] How did the Russian authorities react to the DPRK Foreign Ministry's 4 February statement?

[Son] The Russian Federation Foreign Ministry told us that it would study it, but there has not yet been an official reaction. In this connection I must emphasize the following. The maintenance of peace is undoubtedly the common concern of all countries. The more people who are found to help us at a difficult moment, the better. But it is not always possible to count on anyone in the business of upholding sovereignty. Our people and our Army are ready for very determined actions. If we are attacked, the whole people will be mobilized and together with the Army will rise to the motherland's defense. Let those who are planning aggression in North Korea ponder that.

'Highly Enriched Uranium' Arrives From Iraq

LD1302125194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] A large consignment of highly enriched uranium extracted from Iraq's research reactors was this morning delivered to Chelyabinsk-65. This is reported by Interfax, citing competent sources. The nuclear material, in thick-walled containers, arrived by air from Baghdad at Koltsovo Airport near Yekaterinburg. From there it is being sent by road to the Mayak radio chemical combine, where it is intended to reprocess the material.

The operation of bringing the nuclear material out of Iraq has been carried out on the basis of a UN resolution under the supervision ofthe International Atomic Energy Agency.

Russian-Iranian Talks Held in Moscow on Karabakh Conflict

LD1202143294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1223 GMT 12 Feb 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Feb—Vladimir Kazimirov, roving ambassador of the Russian Foreign Ministry, and Morteza Bank, director general in the Iranian Foreign Ministry expressed deep concern over the sharp escalation in military activities in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Russian-Iranian talks on settling the Karabakh conflict have taken place in Moscow. The sides expressed particular disquiet at the growing scale of combat actions, their worsening severity and the increasing bloodshed, which is intensifying the inhuman nature of the conflict.

As ITAR-TASS was told at the Department of Information and the Russian Foreign Ministry press center, both sides noted that the increasing internationalization of the conflict represents a great danger to the cause of peace and regional stability. It carries the threat of a major conflict with unpredictable consequences for the region and for the whole world.

During the consultations it was acknowledged that only by relying on peaceful political means and on the capability of the sides to reach a sensible reciprocal compromise will it be possible realistically to lay down a firm and long-term basis for a settlement. The Russian side stressed that the main priority is to reach an immediate cease-fire, the cessation of all combat actions, and the conclusion of an agreement on this.

The sides confirmed their conviction that it was possible and essential to reach a bloodless political solution to all the problems of the conflict exclusively by peaceful means, including the liberation of territories, the restoration of transport and power links, and the return of refugees.

The participants in the consultations noted that Russia and Iran support the efforts of the world community to settle the conflict. Russia and Iran are in direct proximity to and have interests in achieving a settlement of this conflict and they have frequently put forward initiatives toward reaching a peaceful resolution and they are continuing their efforts and maintaining constant contact with each other.

Shokhin, Dubinin Invited to G-7 Talks in Germany

LD1002173194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1343 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Temnenkov]

[Text] Bonn February 10 TASS—The finance ministers and chiefs of issuing banks of the Group-of-Seven highly industrialized countries are due to gather in a regular meeting in the town of Kronberg, not far from Frankfurt am Main, on February 26, the German Finance Ministry said in a press release on Thursday.

Participants in the meeting are expected to discuss urgent problems of the world economic development, as well as the current economic situation in Russia, prospects for continuation of reforms in this country and possibilities of further assistance to it from the G-7 countries and international financial organizations. With this in view, senior officials of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have been invited to the kronberg meeting.

The G-7 finance ministers and chiefs of issuing banks will also hold talks with the Russian delegation. Invited to the talks are Russian Economics Minister Aleksandr Shokhin and acting finance minister Sergey Dubinin.

Media Issues

Further Reports on Nationwide TV, Radio Blackouts

Regional Impact Assessed

LD1002173294

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian carries in its "Novosti" newscast at 1500 GMT on 10 February three reports from correspondents in Nizhniy Novgorod, Novosibirsk, and Omsk on how the communication workers' action is affecting radio and television broadcasting.

Aleksandr Tsirulnikov reports from Nizhniy Novgorod that the local communications workers have just ended blocking Ostankino radio and television programs. The Russian channel has been switched on, too. Television viewers in the town and oblast will therefore be able to watch the scheduled evening programs. Earlier, Ostankino Television's first channel carried nothing except the three "Novosti" bulletins. The second channel carried only two "Vesti" bulletins. The oblast's governor has promised the communication workers help in securing funding for maintenance work on broadcasting equipment.

Oleg Ryzhov reports from Novosibirsk that the main television channels have remained silent since the morning.

Vera Morozova reports from Omsk that television screens during the day were blank until the screening in the early evening of news bulletins on all three channels including the St. Petersburg channel.

TV Programs Cut in 30 Cities

LD1002163094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1223 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Viewers in more than 30 Russian cities are now able to watch only news reels on two state-run channels of the Ostankino and Russian TV companies, head of the Communications Ministry's radio and TV relay stations Stanislav Glubokov told Interfax. The measure does not affect Moscow though the number of broadcasts in St. Petersburg have been reduced, he said.

Cutbacks in the number of TV programs on two state-run channels follows a decision by communications workers in response to a Rbl 80 Bn debt run by the Ostankino and All Russia TV companies.

Russian PM Viktor Chernomyrdin after Wednesday's meeting with Communications Minister Vladimir Bulgak and Ostankino TV Company Chairman Alexander Yakovlev instructed the Finance Ministry to raise funds to help phase out the debt.

Glubokov said regional broadcasting would resume as repayment was made.

Kaliningrad Favors Local Programs

LD1002171194 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Disruptive measures are being taken by local communications workers. Mayak programs were switched off in the oblast on 6 February, while today, even the "Utro" television news program was not broadcast. However, commercial channels are continuing to operate, broadcasting semilegal Western clips and local advertisements. The local television program will not be switched off as its management has reached agreement with the communications workers to earn millions [as heard] and pay them off. Even so, local television and the two commercial channels are working only a few hours a day. Meanwhile, local inhabitants watch Polish, Swedish and other Western programs, which can be received well here.

When I asked Kostantin Votpusko, head of the oblast's radio and television transmission center what he thought of this situation, he said that state television had long been a burden to the transmission workers. It is much simpler to sell the air time to the multitude of private commercial companies, which agree to pay large amounts of money. This would be in the interests of the transmission workers, he said. I think that this is what lies behind the boycott and its logic. But who is giving thought to the interests of Russian viewers and listeners?

TV, Radio Blackouts End as Debt Payment Ordered

Chernomyrdin Urges Continued Operation

LD1002175194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The demands of the communication workers' trade union will be closely examined and satisfied, proceeding from what is possible in reality. A meeting between Viktor Chernomyrdin and the leaders of the trade union is planned for the next few days.

Understanding how difficult the situation is, the chairman of the government appeals to the heads and workforces of oblast radio and TV relay centers to continue work in accordance with the radio and TV broadcasting schedules.

Nevertheless, we continue receiving reports from the regions on TV and radio broadcasting being cut. In Murmansk, Kandalaksha, Zapolyarnyy, and Kirovsk only Russian Television programs will be broadcast. On the instruction of the head of the Tomsk Radio and TV Center, broadcasting of the All-Russian TV and Radio Company has been halted and only news bulletins go on the air. The situation in Buryatia is similar. More than one-third of Russia's transmitters are not operating at all or are operating only partially. Such major TV and radio centers like the Chita, Novosibirsk, Yuzhnosakhalinsk, and Kamchatka ones are not operating at all.

Volgograd's communication workers have reported that only because of severe frost has broadcasting not been switched there.

State Begins Paying Off Debts

LD1102102894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0957 GMT 11 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow February 11 TASS—"Payment of debts to regional radio and television centres for work done in the 4th quarter of 1993 was started today. This will be done according to a schedule, approved by the Russian Finance Ministry," head of the Russian Government's press service Valentin Sergeyev stated here today on behalf of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The statement notes that the schedule envisages the complete payment of all the debts in the first quarter of 1994.

The demands of the communication workers union will be carefully studied and fulfilled, proceeding from existing possibilities.

Chernomyrdin's meeting with heads of the Communication Workers Union is expected to be held within the next few days. The chairman of the Russian Government reminded the heads and personnel of regional radio-television broadcasting centres about the difficulty of the current situation and asked them to resume their work in accordance with the usual broadcasting schedules.

Workers Suspend Radio, TV Cuts

LD1002170294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1605 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Feb—The coordinating committee of the Central Committee of the trade unions of communication workers is suspending cuts in radio and television broadcasting.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told today at the Central Committee of the industry's trade unions that this decision was made in connection with the appeal made by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to the managers and workforces of radio and television relay centers to continue work in accordance with radio and television broadcasting schedules, and the decision to begin, from 10 February, paying the debts for work carried out in the fourth quarter of 1993.

According to the same source, a meeting between Viktor Chernomyrdin and the leaders of the trade unions to examine the demands put forward will take place in the next few days.

Chernomyrdin Urges TV Privatization

LD1002170694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1616 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Feb—Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Government, told journalists today that debts incurred by television companies to communication workers will be paid stage-by-stage during the first quarter of this year. "Debts must be paid," he said, meaning the 220 billion ruble debt of television companies to the Ministry of Communications.

At the same time Viktor Chernomyrdin said that it is necessary "to sort out to whom and how we broadcast." He believes that not all programs should be broadcast on state channels. The head of the Russian Cabinet did not rule out that in very near future a number of channels and TV studios may be privatized or sold off.

Chernomyrdin expressed doubt in the necessity to continue the practice of broadcasting on all channels until 0300. "There should be broadcasting, but not on all channels," the premier underlined.

TV Head Urges Government Assistance

LD1102105294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1443 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Feb—The current action by communications workers in which the first and second TV channels were switched off in some Russian Federation regions shows once again that the government should promptly draw up a comprehensive concept for the functioning of the electronic media, Grigoriy Shevelev, first deputy chairman of "Ostankino" Russian state TV and radio company, believes. He told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that, "with all due understanding for the problems of communications workers, to deprive television viewers cannot be the only way to solve the problems of the industry".

Having mentioned that "Ostankino" was taking measures to reduce nighttime and daytime broadcasting, Shevelev does not believe, however, that such economical measures will help on a large scale. In his view, the solution lies in a search for ways to ensure a more efficient signal propagation in the Russian Federation and in the use of more advanced and economical technologies. According to Shevelev, introducing the payment of rent for television will improve the situation to a degree, a measure that will make television directly dependent on the interests of viewers at the same time.

Shevelev sees the primary need to be a state program for developing the electronic media, which would determine a correlation between federal and regional television, prospects for developing cable networks, and other problems.

Need To Reorganize TV, Radio Examined

MK1202110094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Feb 94 p 2

[Irina Petrovskaya report in the "Television" column: "On 10 February Communication Workers Switched Off TV Nearly in the Whole of Russia. Funds To Pay Debts Have Been Raised but Problems Remain"]

[Excerpts] The day of 10 February will go down in the history of domestic TV and radio broadcasting next to the other "black" date—3 October. Communication workers managed to do more than the coupists: in October, when Ostankino went off the air, Russian TV and radio worked all night. This time, however, both TV and radio went out completely in more than 60 regions of Russia. In a number of regions only morning and evening news bulletins were broadcast. Reports coming into Ostankino from the morning were reminiscent of front-line reports as though they were about an enemy capturing cities, one by one: Yakutsk, Irkutsk, Kirov, Kazan, Kemerovo, Nizhniy Novgorod, Saratov, Ivanovo, Ulyanovsk, Arkhangelsk, Smolensk, Voronezh, Volgograd, and Chita—a total blackout. Tver, St. Petersburg, Novgorod, Krasnodar, and Izhevsk: Only "Novosti" and "Vesti" were aired. The greater part of Russia's population was on the verge of a full information vacuum. Moscow has avoided such a fate: the communication workers saved this "argument" as a last resort. According to another version, the director of the Moscow TV and Radio Center (as well as the main communication centers in several more oblasts) did not obey the decision of their trade union and boycotted the protest action.

Be that as it may, the threat by the communication workers to reduce or stop TV and radio broadcasting, which many dismissed as not serious enough, was made good. And it worked, confirming the eternal Russian truth: Until thunder has struck, the muzhik will not cross himself. [passage omitted]

What happened on 10 February has shown that our perception of the present information system as democratic is illusory. The system whereby TV is controlled from one point and can instantly be switched off throughout the country remains essentially totalitarian. [passage omitted]

This time it turned out all right in the end. But everyone understands: The situation can be repeated. Something must be done. Even Viktor Chernomyrdin, who only a month and a half ago at a meeting with Ostankino's board of directors stated decisively: "The government will provide for state TV no matter what," on 10 February, in an interview with "Novosti," called into question the need for such a proportion of state TV (in Russia there are three federal and 90 regional companies): "One should look to see what needs to be corporatized and what should be privatized."

Ostankino alone will require 1.267 trillion from the budget in 1994. Out of this amount, 88 percent will go to pay for communication services.

Valentin Lazutkin, deputy chairman of the Russian Federal TV and Radio Broadcasting Service, is certain: the nongovernmental sphere does not have this sort of money. Additional funds received from corporatizing Ostankino (if it takes place) will allow to recoup program production costs, not pay for the transmission. Even if several large financial groups become stock holders, there will not be enough money to pay the communication workers.

Nor is it possible, according to V. Lazutkin, to introduce subscription fees or a TV tax: First, the condition of the tax system and the way taxes are collected are well known; second, the population cannot be coerced to pay TV bills; third, it is politically inexpedient to impose high charges while the modest sums that will eventually be returned will not cover the expenses.

Therefore, TV cannot do without large state subsidies. V. Lazutkin believes it necessary to undertake a qualified economic assessment of the whole system of financial settlements: with the communication services, the power services, and so forth. Many prices have been established arbitrarily: real prices, on the other hand, will allow to reduce these astronomical sums substantially.

Reorganization within the companies themselves—cutting bloated staffs (especially in Ostankino), streamlining advertising, rationalizing the broadcasting regime (eliminating what sociologists call idle time)—all this will also save budget resources and allow state TV to survive. And that it is on the verge of collapse is clear to everybody. [passage omitted]

Political Issues

Yeltsin Decree Appoints Shakhray to Presidium

LD1302113894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1029 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow, 13 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—President Boris Yeltsin has issued a decree including Sergey Shakhray, Russian nationalities and regional policy minister, in the composition of the Russian Federation Government Presidium.

ITAR-TASS today received the text of the degree signed by the Russian president on 12 February.

Two Deputy Finance Ministers Quit

MK1102092094 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 11 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Behind the Scenes" rubric: "Reformers' Resignations Continue"]

[Text] Andrey Illarionov's resignation from the government has proven to be far from the last one.

KURANTY has come to learn that two deputy finance ministers at once—Kuzmin and Aleksashin—have submitted their resignation.

Unfortunately, the prognoses by experts, who thought that Boris Fedorov's departure would enable the premier, in league with the Agrarians, to crush with no special effort the resistance of the last bastion on the road to hyperinflation, are beginning to come true.

New Deputy Economy Minister Appointed

MK1202134094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 12 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "New Appointment"]

[Text] Viktor Chernomyrdin, head of the Russian Cabinet of Ministers, signed an order yesterday appointing Sergey Vasilyev, chief of the Russian Federation Government's Working Center for Economic Reforms, as deputy economy minister.

Chernomyrdin Favors Fewer Deputy Premiers

LD1102210994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1703 GMT 11 Feb 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Russia's Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has spoken in favor of fewer deputy premiers. Addressing coal-mining managers and trade union officials in Moscow on Friday, he said, "There have been fewer deputy premiers. I think that there could be still fewer of them." Chernomyrdin explained that, "there are now four deputy premiers, but their number will be reduced even more."

IF Note: After the Cabinet reshuffle, the deputy prime ministers in place are: Oleg Soskovets—first deputy prime minister, and Yuriy Yarov, Aleksander Zaveryukha, and Anatoliy Chubays—deputy prime ministers

Chernomyrdin called for enhancing the role of ministries, federal departments, and large industrial companies.

"If we make the government free of the duties that are alien to it and transfer them to ministries, major companies and regions, questions will be solved in a more prompt fashion," Chernomyrdin remarked. In his words, the time when only Moscow decided whether to build an enterprise or close one has gone and will never return.

He recalled that as the USSR Gas Minister he cut the number of his deputies from 11 to 2 with no adverse effect on the industry.

Yavlinskiy: Democracy Not Increased Under Yeltsin

LD1102231494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2011 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Leader of the Yavlinskiy-Boldyrev-Lukin faction in the State Duma, Grigory Yavlinskiy, said that Russia had not become more democratic since 1991 when Yeltsin came to power in comparison with the situation under Mikhail Gorbachev. "I see no changes in the sphere of dialogue with people, listening to them, decrease in the number of officials, struggle with corruption," Yavlinskiy said in the Moscow House of Scientists on Friday evening.

"Gorbachev carried out political reforms ignoring the economic ones. Yeltsin has acted vice versa since 1991," Yavlinskiy pointed out. In his opinion, the way to abolishment of the USSR chosen in 1991 could resist no critic from the point of view of logic, market economy and democracy. "We have to pay for this, especially in the sphere of the economy," he said.

Yavlinskiy also believes that the executive power was to blame for the October events in Moscow to a bigger extent. All this must be taken into consideration when assessing Yeltsin, Yavlinskiy emphasized.

On the economic situation, he pointed out that he would focus on fighting inflation if he were given an opportunity to form the government. "It is very important to keep inflation this autumn from reaching 40-50%," Yavlinskiy believes.

However, Yavlinskiy repeated that he had been critical of Gaydar's policy, saying that "constant endless struggle with inflation was unreasonable." "Inflation is only a symptom of the affected economy. De-monopolization of the economy, establishment of a strong and large private sector and real competitiveness are needed," he pointed out.

Yavlinskiy said that we could hope for Russian money returning to Russia from abroad. Its amount is put from $25 Bn to $50 Bn, according to different estimates. "We need a system under which it will be beneficial for the owners to bring money back to Russia," Yavlinskiy emphasized.

Kostikov Urges Democrats To Work With Yeltsin

LD1002201394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1747 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Establishment of a democratic party on the basis of Russia's Choice was discussed at a meeting between Russia's Choice leader Yegor Gaydar and public representatives in Moscow on Thursday [10 February].

Commenting on the issue, Presidential Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov pointed out that democrats, after denying the party structure which had led to the arbitrary rule of the Soviet Communist Party, started to realize that a "strong, well-organized democratic party will guarantee development of democracy and continuation of the reforms in Russia." On possible interaction between this party and the Russian president, Kostikov emphasized that the president was a long-time democrat.

"Boris Yeltsin has determined his place in the history of new Russia primarily as a democrat. That is why an ideological connection between the president and the democratically-oriented party to be established is quite natural. This stems from the president's whole policy," Kostikov remarked.

Different political groups currently argue who will receive the "president's banner." According to Kostikov, this proves that society has realized what strong political potential the president has. Kostikov expressed his confidence that this potential was applied in favor of democracy and contributed to the development of reforms.

However, Kostikov pointed out that "democrats should take a more active position towards the president, introducing themselves as an active political force, friendly to Boris Yeltsin and ready to support his policy."

Also participating in the meeting were Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays; Sergey Kovalev, a well-known fighter for human rights; Yelena Bonner, widow of Academician Andrey Sakharov; writer and Federation Council deputy Yuriy Chernichenko; actors Zinoviy Gerdt, Mikhail Gluzskiy, and Mikhail Ulyanov; movie director Rolan Bykov; satiric poet Aleksandr Ivanov; writer Fazil Iskander; and others.

Gaydar Criticizes Government's 'Inactivity'

LD1002140694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1223 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Ex-first vice premier and leader of the Russia's Choice reform bloc Yegor Gaydar criticized the new government for inactivity. Speaking about the new Cabinet, he said that "there is no government united by one idea or one logic."

"There is a group of leaders of different ministries concerned about the future of these ministries. In the absence of a central economic concept it is difficult and psychologically impossible to withstand the lobbyists' demands coming from everywhere," he told the newspaper Izvestiya.

To quote Gaydar, the old government managed to prevent hyperinflation, although inflation fever continues to torment the economy. The situation in foreign trade has changed and exports far exceed imports. The hard-currency reserve considerably increased: whereas at the end of 1991 the state treasury was almost empty, by the end of 1993 Russia's hard-currency reserves exceeded $4.5 Bn.

The absolute deadlock in November 1991 was overcome avoiding an economic collapse, civil war and dictatorship, he said.

He also said that his faction in the State Duma would rigorously and consistently work for broadening the citizens' right to individual and collective self-defense, toughening punishment for crimes and for involvement in organized crimes.

In the current situation, a humane attitude to criminals at their victims' expense is at best out of place. I mean the decree on amnesty. Society will challenge such a decree and will be quite right, stated Gaydar.

Urges Democrats To Join Forces

MK1202105094 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 12 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Party Life" rubric: "Reformers, Unite! Yegor Gaydar Appeals to Leaders of Reformist and Democratic Organizations"]

[Text] The elections for the Russian Federation Federal Assembly, the appeal says, have shown convincingly that a weighty reason for the extreme reactionary political forces' relative success was the inability or unwillingness of various democratic blocs and parties to agree on genuine coordination of their actions. Sergey Baburin, Yuriy Vlasov, Aleksandr Nevzorov, and many others of their ilk broke into the State Duma because of a lack of coordination in our activity. The cost of what might be a "genetic" whim of Russian democrats is the considerable worsening of political and economic instability and uncertainty in the country.

Have we drawn lessons from what has happened?

The experience of the very first regional elections shows that we have not. Again, one "revenge-seeking" candidate is opposed by at least three or four democratic ones, clinched in much more heated polemics with each other than with him. Unless we break this tradition, local elections may bring about the recreation of the old Soviet power under new names.

Yegor Gaydar proposed that a joint election campaign strategy be worked out as early as the next two or three weeks. The experience of the December elections has shown that relying on the withdrawal of the already nominated candidates would be utopian. This is why the following principle should be agreed upon: one candidate from all the democratic and reformist forces for one mandate.

To implement this principle, they may reach agreement on regional quotas for each organization. Comparative results of the electoral support enjoyed by the associations in specific regions could also serve as indicators.

Democrats Ask Yeltsin To Set Up Public Chamber

MK1102124094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Feb 94 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Moscow"]

[Text] It has transpired from sources at the Russian Democratic Reform Movement [RDRM] leadership that a draft directive on the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation has been presented to President Boris Yeltsin. Some time ago, RDRM Chairman Gavriil Popov advanced this initiative at the movement's congress. According to the sources, the Public Chamber is to be set up to ensure coordination between the Russian Federation federal executive agencies and public associations, to draw up presidential and government decisions on the most important social and political matters taking into account public opinion, and to create a feedback channel between public association and state authorities. It is expected that if the directive is signed the first meeting of the Public Chamber may take place as early as one of the last 10 days of February.

Chernomyrdin Rejects Pamfilova's Resignation

LD1402133694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1255 GMT 14 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Feb—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has not accepted Ella Pamfilova's notice of resignation from the post of social protection minister said Valentin Sergeyev, head of the government's press service, to an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

According to Sergeyev, the head of the government thinks that Ella Pamfilova "is needed by the government, the ministry and by those who are in want of social protection. She must and will continue to work in spite of all the difficulties of the present economic situation".

Yeltsin Aide Blasts Media for Shallow Sensations

LD1202181394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin's chief aide said the aim of the current reform of the presidential staff was to ensure its maximum efficiency.

Viktor Ilyushin, in an exclusive interview given to Interfax on Saturday, said news media reports that one of the purposes of the reform was to put the Foreign Ministry and the power ministries outside the government structure were "a lot of rubbish." This should be clear to anyone who has any idea of how government works, he said.

He also denied media reports about the existence of "dual authority" in the presidential staff. "I am a member of presidential staff myself. (Chief of staff) Sergey Filatov and I have so many serious tasks to do that we have no time to go into such fibs," he said.

Ilyushin said there were many "complicated problems" that he and Filatov had been discussing in connection with the restructuring of the presidential staff.

He said he and Filatov would give their opinions on the new structure of the staff to journalists after the president approved it.

He said he regretted the fact that journalists, in search of sensation, sometimes represented their own conjectures as the truth. "I don't question journalists' right to comment even on facts which are insufficiently verified, but I don't think one can make such categorical statements about them," he said.

Presidential Aide Interviewed on Responsibilities

LD1202221594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Interview with Presidential Aide Georgiy Saratov by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] This week was marked not only by sackings, but by appointments as well. Forty-six year old Georgiy Satarov was given the post of presidential aide. He is a Muscovite, and he graduated from the Moscow State Teachers Training College. He worked there until 1991, studying the application of mathematical methods to social sciences. After that he became head of the Center of Applied Political Research, which he himself had set up. Since 1993 he has been a member of the Presidential Council. He is married, and has two daughters.

[Correspondent] First of all, Georgiy Aleksandrovich, allow me to congratulate you on your appointment. But what made you stop being a freelance and become an official?

[Satarov] Possibly it is a Joan of Arc type complex: Who if not I? Because I know no other good reasons for a person with a good academic career and a more or less successful life to become a functionary. That is first. Second, there is, of course an element of a sort of basic curiosity. It is one thing to analyze and advise, and quite another thing to try and put things into practice.

[Correspondent] You automatically cease being a member of the Presidential Council?

[Satarov] Yes.

[Correspondent] What will your responsibilities be?

[Satarov] They will encompass a range of political issues connected with the interaction of the president with the Federal Assembly and with parties and public bodies; the problem of his constitutional powers in connection with the interaction between society and authority; the building of a civic society, etc.

[Correspondent] The president is presently reorganizing his staff, we all know this. Is the president trying to strengthen his home front as he sees Chernomyrdin's team becoming stronger?.

[Satarov] That is not the case for the simple reason that the reorganization of the administration that is to take place in the near future, as well as the new appointments that were made just now, mine included, were planned a very long time ago, even before the start of the elections.

[Correspondent] When the government is criticized do people criticize the president as well?

[Satarov] Yes and no. At present there is a certain distancing, of course. In particular, this is also connected with the constitution, this new system of powers. On the other hand, the president is responsible for the Cabinet, because the prime minister was chosen by him. So he cannot avoid responsibility completely, and it is clear that any criticism of the government also reflects upon the president, there can be no doubt about that.

Satarov Notes Differences With Yeltsin

MK1202130094 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 12 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed report on presidential aide Georgiy Satarov's statement under the "Politics" rubric: "Boris Yeltsin Realizes That It Is Better To Rely on Those Who Put Up Resistance, Says Georgiy Satarov, Aide to the Russian Federation President"]

[Text] The president has a range of political problems concerning relations with the Federal Assembly, parties, and public organizations. I have been called upon to help him in this work. My current role, that of presidential adviser, as I see it is basically a continuation of what I have done as a member of the Presidential Council, that is, to help the president collaborate with other bodies of power.

As for my specific steps, in the near future I plan to present to the president my program, my vision of the problems, but so far I would not like to talk about that. As I have said, I see my new role as creating a requisite political atmosphere where relations between the president and the Federal Assembly would be based on information flows coming from both sides.

As I mull over why Boris Yeltsin chose me as an aide, although I have far from always "expressed my full approval," I come to the conclusion that the president realizes that he needs to rely on those who put up resistance, who are not afraid to speak up and to defend their views.

Communist Leader Criticizes Executive Power

LD1102211294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1731 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Analysis of the latest events in the Russian Federation shows that the executive power has either collapsed and can no longer rule in the country or it is consciously leading to mass protests in order to help the regions to release tension, Leader of the Russian Communist Party's faction in the State Duma, Gennadiy Zuganov, said at a press conference on Friday.

Zuganov mentioned the issue of non-payment to enterprises, unpreparedness for the cold weather, the reorganization of the power structures of the defense and former security ministries, and attempts to hinder the State Duma's activities among the factors deteriorating the situation.

According to Zuganov, the recently signed Russian-Georgian Treaty, which was not coordinated with the North Caucasian republics, was one of the most significant destabilizing factors. This treaty might stir up mass disturbances in North Caucasus, Zuganov pointed out.

Zhirinovskiy Predicts Drastic Change in Situation

LD1002164894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1535 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dzhon Polishchuk]

[Text] St. Petersburg, 10 Feb—"The situation in Russia will change drastically this year," Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR) of Russia, stated today. He has arrived at the city on the Neva at the head of a group of LDPR deputies of the Russian parliament. He asserted that the LDPR was already prepared to form a new government since it "did not need to look for candidates for the top posts".

In his characteristic manner, the LDPR chairman warned journalists that they would be held responsible for attacks on his party and for discrediting its program and methods of work. He also threatened to take their television and radio microphones and their newspapers.

In order to strengthen the position of the LDPR, its leader again tried to exploit the problem of the position of the Russian-speaking population in the republics of the former USSR and also the foreign political aspects of the party's activities. In particular, Zhirinovskiy stated that he viewed relations with Japan and India as priorities. India, he asserted, "is prepared to feed and clothe the whole of Russia if it is allowed to have the products of the St. Petersburg military industrial complex."

Zhirinovskiy 'Pirated' Book Claim Questioned

PM1002172794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Feb 94 First Edition p 8

[Vladimir Ivanidze report: "Zhirinovskiy's 'Pirated' Book? Unliterary Passions Surrounding *Last Dash to the South*"]

[Text] "The publication of Vladimir Volfovich's book *Last Dash to the South* was pirated! Everything in it is distorted! This is a provocation!" the art critic Irina Sergeyevna Kulikova, who prepared Zhirinovskiy's text for publication, told IZVESTIYA.

This strange and unexpected statement by one of the most loyal supporters of the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] seems absurd. In the four months since its publication the book has caused Zhirinovskiy and his comrades in arms nothing but delight. There is only one explanation for this contradiction—the criminal investigation which the Russian General Prosecutor's Office started against Zhirinovskiy a few days ago. He may be charged under Article 71 of the Penal Code concerning war propaganda contained in the pages of "The Last Dash to the South." The real prospect of spending at least three years behind barbed wire is forcing Zhirinovskiy to look for a way out of the dangerous situation he has found himself in. It seems that it is specifically for this purpose that what at first appears to be a senseless scandal is now being hatched.

Ms. Kulikova claims that the book's "sponsors" have perpetrated a forgery. Her arguments sound pretty strange and even illogical, however. "You can see places in the book which have been purposely printed in boldface so as to attract the attention of corrupt journalists, like you IZVESTIYA journalists," Ms. Kulikova said. Struck by the typeface, I asked her about these evil sponsors. "I am not going to give you their names, but, believe me, they are to blame for everything!" came the answer.

Apart from the "boldface" in certain places, Ms. Kulikova drew attention to two other terrible circumstances. "Zhirinovskiy's real text contains bits of his speeches, and we removed all the repetitions. But in the pirated book, the text looks as though Vladimir Volfovich keeps saying the same thing, over and over!"

Irina Sergeyevna's bitter observation is entirely just, but only from the viewpoint of an art critic. Maybe she does not know that deliberate repetitions in the structure of a speech were considered to be the most successful propagandist device, even among orators in ancient Greece. After all, the crowd does not hear, it feels. In order for the sense of what has been said to be brought home, the same thing has to be drummed into it several times.

Carried away by the conversation, Ms. Kulikova said that she personally placed the floppy containing the text of the book in the "sponsors'" hands. This text was simply dictated by Zhirinovskiy. On Kulikova's own admission, she is not so much his editor as a proofreader, and she never changes the sense of what has been said. From the day of publication and up until the end of January, when the investigators from the General Prosecutor's Office finally got down to reading the book, it did not enter anyone's head that this was a forgery. Even Zhirinovskiy's head. Aside from that, there are more rational proofs of identity.

The secret "sponsors" are in fact indicated at the end of Zhirinovskiy's book—the "Pisatel" Limited Partnership and the "Bukvitsa" Publishing Cooperative. It was they who put in an order at Moscow Printing Works No. 13 to publish the book.

As Yuliya Mikhaylovna Lobacheva, chief of the production department of this printing works, assures us, the clients' license was perfectly in order. Admittedly, of the 75,000 copies of *Last Dash to the South* ordered, the printing works only printed 35,000.

"You see, we do not take orders without prepayment, and they only paid for half of the print run. We printed 34,000 in the normal cover, and another 1,000 in a prepublication cover, just as they asked. Aside from that, I do not understand how this book can be 'pirated' if Zhirinovskiy waves it around at every news conference he holds," Ms. Lobacheva said.

These 1,000 copies—in the prepublication version—were sold to deputies in the State Duma. From this you can conclude that Zhirinovskiy is unbelievably prudent in matters of propaganda. But the interference of the General Prosecutor's Office upset some of his plans. The sale of the book within the walls of the State Duma, organized by the LDPR leader, in no way squares with the idea of a "pirated" publication. In any case, Zhirinovskiy in no way looks like a victim here. But Ms. Kulikova is so keen on the piracy theme that she has completely rejected the fact of the sale of the book in the State Duma.

"Don't believe it, it's lies!" the art critic exclaimed. "There is no such book as *Last Dash to the South* and there never has been. This is only the second part of Zhirinovskiy's trilogy *On the Fate of Russia* ripped out of context! That book will be on sale soon."

Let us sum up. So, no one has changed the essence of the published text but, admittedly, objections have been made about the typeface. This is evidently not enough to confuse the investigators from the General Prosecutor's Office. Particularly since the title page of *Last Dash to the South* bears the "V.V. Zhirinovskiy" copyright symbol. Maybe this is a completely different "V.V."? It does not seem possible to ask Zhirinovskiy himself about this. Irina Sergeyevna reported with great satisfaction that he is demanding $100 per minute for interviews. At rates like that you could never save up enough money to get to see the LDPR leader. Incidentally, this constitutes illegal operations with foreign currency. Article 88 of the

Russian Federation Penal Code goes as far as execution by firing squad. After you have paid your taxes, of course.

But long before my conversation with Ms. Kulikova I had the good fortune to meet with Mr. Vengerovskiy, chief of the LDPR's intelligence unit. In his boss's office he handed me a copy of *Last Dash to the South* with the words: "Here you will find the answers to all questions!" The cunning nature of the journalist and the feeling of simple human vanity did the intelligence agent a bad turn, and he gladly left a dedication and his autograph on the sleeve.

Irina Sergeyevna's reaction to the story about my meeting with Vengerovskiy and his autograph suggests to me that the General Prosecutor's Office will not find it easy going. She immediately changed her stance and started to defend the pirated book, stating that there is no war propaganda in it and that no one intends to attack Turkey or Iran.

"Vladimir Volfovich has always been opposed to weapons. He is simply proposing to station Russian military settlements in a corridor leading to the Indian Ocean. You would have to know history. The Cossacks have always defended the Russian state's borders," Ms. Kulikova stated.

The fact that Turkey and Iran, as well as Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia, which have inadvertently found themselves in that "corridor," do not consider themselves to be part of Russia was not taken into consideration by Irina Sergeyevna. What would happen in that "corridor" is obvious to an idiot.

Quests for "pirates" and "sponsors" are not preventing Irina Sergeyevna from now being involved in gathering orders for the translation and publication of the book abroad.

"We have had such offers from Britain, Japan, and the United States. But we will choose the ones which are most profitable for us. Those who pay the most will get the publishing rights. Admittedly, I do not remember how many offers we have had and which publishing houses they came from, but we have had offers. One of Russia's representatives at the United Nations is conducting talks on our behalf with American publishers. It doesn't matter what his name is!" Ms. Kulikova stressed.

The latest publication offer came from Paris recently. A small French publishing house, F2F, has decided to publish the book *Last Dash to the South*. The publishing house department which is fortuitously called "Material Evidence" is already prepared to get down to the translation.

When Rene Bousquet, an old French collaborationist, was shot in Paris, F2F found and published his anti-Semitic resolutions drawn up under the Vichy regime, during World War II. This publishing house recently published the last issue of PRAVDA when it was banned by Yeltsin during the October events in Moscow.

Incidentally, something about the expected royalties and the right to publish. If Ms. Kulikova is telling the truth and Zhirinovskiy himself confirms the "piracy" of the book "Last Dash for the South Seas," then the French will be able to publish it without paying the LDPR leader a centime.

Chemical Weapons Dumping After WWII Reported

LD1102092694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0838 GMT 11 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Petrozavodsk February 11 TASS—Thirty three years ago the former Soviet Union dumped thousands of tonnes of chemical shells in northern seas and scientists fear the secret burial grounds may be the reason for a high mortality rate among the local population, according to a Russian daily which quoted a participant of the secret dumping operation.

Ero Pavilainen, a resident of the northern Russian city of Petrozavodsk, served in early 60's in a military unit near the town of Pechenga, close to the Norwegian border. He told the Petrozavodsk-based newspaper "NORTHERN COURIER" on Friday that he and other soldiers had unloaded numerous railway cars with bombs with mustard gas.

"These were the Soviet chemical weapons accumulated since the (World) War (Two). They were delivered by trains from various military units of the Soviet Union and dumped in the Arctic Ocean", Pavilainen was quoted as saying.

The newspaper added that measurements taken by experts in certain parts of the White Sea showed that the water and soil there are contaminated and unsuitable for living organisms.

It added that the secret burial places of chemical weapons may be the reason for a high mortality rate, especially among newborns, registered in several settlement along the coast.

Economic & Space Issues

Trade Union Leader Dissatisfied With Talks

LD1102154794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1447 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin says the government has no plans of adopting new programs and that the question is one of building on the existing concept.

Speaking on Friday, he told the leaders of West Siberian trade unions, which threaten a strike over pay delays, to consider the workers' demands when developing a new social and economic policy. At the same time, Chernomyrdin made it clear he would not bow to the threat of strikes and would take "unpopular measures" if need be.

He called for defaults to be negotiated between consumers, producers and the unions by way of agreements on prices, tariffs and wages, saying the government had no money to oblige their demands.

Leader of the trade unions federation of the Kuznetsk coal-mining region Anatoliy Chekis said he was dissatisfied with the outcome of talks with the prime minister who had failed to give a coherent answer to the questions in hand.

However, he suggested Chernomyrdin may not have been informed "about our demands though we sent them before." If wages are not paid in time, "there will be a social explosion," he said.

Employment Minister Gennadiy Melikyan and union activists are to hold more talks on Saturday.

Chernomyrdin Orders Immediate Payment to Miners

LD1102094894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0842 GMT 11 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Feb—The head of the Russian Government has issued an instruction that the state's debts to the coalminers should be settled immediately. Viktor Chernomyrdin issued this directive to the Russian Federation Finance Ministry after this morning's meeting with coal-industry managers and trade-union leaders.

Viktor Chernomyrdin also proposed that a study should be made of the idea of gradually paying off the debts to the coalminers by means of bills of exchange that would be freely accepted for encashment by the Russian Central Bank.

Chernomyrdin Urges Fixing Wages, Prices

LD1102154294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1255 GMT 11 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow February 11 TASS—"The present situation in the Russian economy is difficult but not disastrous," Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin said on Friday at a meeting with Siberian trade union activists and workers who intended to inform the cabinet head of the deplorable situation in industry and low living standards in Siberia.

Chernomyrdin promised them to take into account all their requirements concerning the social and economic situation in Siberia when finalising the federal budget for 1994, the main parameters of which will be made public in the Russian president's message to parliament on February 18.

The premier said that the draft provides for a big federal budget deficit which, in his opinion, was caused above all by the continued industrial slump in Russia. To prevent the acceleration of the slump and inflation, Chernomyrdin said that it was necessary to conclude an agreement between producers, trade unions and consumers on fixing prices, tariffs and wages. The premier sees a non-monetary approach of pulling the country out of the crisis in such an agreement.

Representatives of Siberian unions and workers squarely put the question of settling, at long last, the problems of debts to enterprises, timely payments of wages to civil servants, legislative guarantees of the general tariff agreement, changes of the taxation system in the country and payments of debts to peasants.

The prime minister promised that all proposals on state financing will be undoubtedly taken into account when finalising the federal budget for 1994. As for debts for agricultural products purchased by the state from peasants last autumn, totalling some 1,000 billion roubles, payments will start literally in the next few days, the premier assured. At the same time, he warned that the state will not fully pay all debts at once.

The prime minister stressed that the government intends, in future too, to take utmost efforts for social maintenance of poor segments of population and civil servants as well as to examine closely possibilities of creating new jobs. He also spoke against holding strikes at this difficult time for the country.

Chernomyrdin: 1994 Budget May Have 'Big Deficit'

LD1002180194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1727 GMT 10 FeB 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—The draft budget for 1994 will be finalised in the near future, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said on Thursday at a meeting with representatives of the parliamentary bloc New Regional Policy, which has the second largest faction in the State Duma.

The faction members who represent the interests of Russian regions brought up the problem of non-payments, state support for the Far North, inflation and the problem of refugees at the meeting.

Chernomyrdin said that the draft budget for 1994 may envisage a "big deficit." He urged the enterprises to provide their guarantees that they will continue making vital products in the required volume.

He stressed the need to foster closer "working" ties between the government and the Federal Assembly.

Spokesman Denies New Reform Program in Works

LD1402133394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Valentin Sergeyev, the head of the government press service, has described information saying that a group of economists, including Shatalin, Abalkin, Saburov, and Lvov, are working on alternative programs for restructuring the economy on the orders of the government as not corresponding to reality. The course of reforms and the plan of measures aimed at implementing them was adopted in August last year at a sitting of the Council of Ministers and endorsed by the president. This course remains unchanged, the statement says. A working group has been set up by the government to draw up a plan of urgent and high priority measures and actions for this year. It is headed by Sergey Vasilyev, deputy economics minister. It examines every proposal submitted by scientists and industrialists irrespective of their stance, the statement by Sergeyev notes. The group will submit a corresponding document to the head of the government having taken into account the proposals and a message from the Russian president to the Federal Assembly, which is to be made public on 18 February.

Yavlinskiy Criticizes Government Economic Policy

LD1002143294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1223 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] The prominent economist and leader of the Yavlinskiy bloc, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, has said that, as a result of the policy pursued by Russia's government in 1992-1993, the monthly rates of inflation had reached 25% to 30%, the budget deficit in real terms reached about 20% of the Gross National Product, and the ruble rate fell from 100 to 1600 rubles for one dollar.

According to Yavlinskiy, in the current year the slump in production will make up about 50% against 1989. In 1993 industrial investment was virtually nil, and the outflow of foreign currency to the West totaled 15 billion dollars.

Analysing the complicated political situation in the country, Yavlinskiy said in an interview with the Nezavisimaya (Independent) Gazeta that under the circumstances Russia's government, no matter who leads it, is virtually in no position to do anything constructive.

"Since the political crisis is bottomless, on the whole no good can be expected from the present government," Yavlinskiy said.

Soskovets Admits Government Losing Control of Economy

LD1102220794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1712 GMT 11 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Oleg Velichko and Igor Ivantsov]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Feb—Oleg Soskovets, the first deputy prime minister of the Russian Federation Government, has admitted that the government has partly lost control of the economy through financial and credit resources.

Speaking today at an expanded session of the collegium of the Ministry of Fuel and Energy Resources, the first deputy prime minister also said that "the problem of non-payments with which the Russian economy is afflicted has not yet been studied very well." He commented critically on the current pricing and tax policy. "It ought to unite and not separate the government and the producers," he said.

Oleg Soskovets sees one of the principal goals of the present cabinet in "creating conditions that will enable producers and consumers to agree among themselves normally."

The first deputy prime minister said that the credit and finance system needed adjustment, as did the banking system. He called upon specialists working in the fuel and energy complex to pursue "a policy of partnership with other industries." Otherwise we will be unable to form a civilized market, he said.

In the opinion of Oleg Soskovets, active attempts were being made "to discredit the policy of reforms, especially after some members of the previous cabinet left the government." But "no one talks about skilled workers and managers leaving, though it is they who make the whole economy tick," he added.

Space Defense Forces Launch 6 Satellites

LD1202121194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1204 GMT 12 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS string correspondent Semen Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow February 12 TASS—A Cyclone-3 space booster rocket carried six satellites in the Cosmos series—the Cosmos-2,268—Cosmos-2,273 of the low-orbit satellite communications system, at 11.54 Moscow time from the Plesetsk cosmodrome on Saturday.

The launch was conducted by Russia's Space Defence Forces (SDF) in the interests of the Russian Defence Ministry.

The launch was successful. All the six satellites are following flight paths close to the pre-calculated ones and are being controlled by the main centre for Cosmos satellite control and testing, a spokesman at the SDF press centre told ITAR-TASS.

The Cosmos-2,269 has become the 1,800th satellite launched into a low-earth orbit from Plesetsk over the 28 years of the existence of Russia's northern cosmodrome.

Federal Assembly

Rybkin Holds News Conference on Current Issues

LD1002175594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1559 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—Chairman of the Russian State Duma Ivan Rybkin said that by participating in the December 1993 elections the deputies admitted the constitutionality of the presidential decision to disband the former parliament.

Speaking at a news conference in Moscow on Thursday [10 February], Rybkin said that he did not see any sin in the establishment of a commission to investigate into the October 1993 revolt in Moscow, making it clear that whatever the findings they will be of no more than academic value.

The news conference was held in a peaceful atmosphere. The Duma chairman tried to smooth out sharp issues and stick to the constructive-reconciliatory tone which he has assumed from the day of his election.

He spoke about good cooperation between the Duma and the president, the government and the Federation Council and denied statements that he was seeking to subjugate the whole house and receive unlimited powers similar to those of his predecessor, Ruslan Khasbulatov.

Asked about the attitude of the Duma towards and his own position on the trial of scientist Vil Mirzayanov accused of betraying state secrets about chemical weapons, Rybkin replied that the Duma human rights committee is now considering this issue.

Speaking about the situation in connection with the upcoming local elections, he described it as rather complicated, adding that the State Duma's position is "very delicate." "We can determine the basic principles of the electoral laws for the subjects of the Federation, but we do not want to impose anything on anyone," Rybkin said.

He opposed calls for revising the constitution, saying that "since it is adopted, we, as loyal citizens, should abide by it." He stressed, however, that amendments can be adopted because the constitution has many flaws.

Commenting on the situation in agriculture, Rybkin admitted that often huge state subsidies to the agro-industrial complex were ineffective. But now subsidies should be targeted. "Those who are ripe for bankruptcy, should be declared bankrupt," he said.

Speaking about foreign debts, Rybkin stressed that Russia is owed 1.5 times more than it owes others. This question has been ignored for a long time in the government, he added. Rybkin suggested selling other countries's debts to Russia at 65-80 per cent of their nominal value.

Duma Proposes Measures To Aid Northern Regions

LD1102221394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2129 GMT 11 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 12 TASS—The State Duma of Russia has demanded today from the Russian Government to take urgent measures to resolve the crisis in the northern regions. A resolution adopted by the Duma has proposed to the executive and legislature to form a working group jointly with trade unions of the north for promptly adopting decisions to find a way out of the social and economic crisis that prevails in northern regions, and also to monitor the implementation of these decisions.

While preparing a draft budget for 1994, the government has also been recommended to foresee the purposeful formation of economic mechanisms for finding a way out of the crisis and to ensure social guarantees to citizens living and working in the northern regions.

The State Duma has instructed the Federal and Political Affairs Committee of the house, in particular, to prepare a draft concept of a federal law on state policy in northern regions of the Russian Federation and present for consideration of the Duma by April 20 this year.

This State Duma has made it binding on this committee to prepare and present for consideration of the house proposals about introducing changes and addenda into the Russian Federation law "on state guarantees and compensations to people living and working in areas of the farthest north and equated to them localities." The Duma considers to give priority to review this draft bill in this year, and also other documents, which will be prepared in context of the social-economic situation created in the northern regions of Russia.

State Duma Adopts Resolution on Local Elections

LD1102185594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1428 GMT 11 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow February 11 TASS—The State Duma adopted today a revised draft resolution on the legal basis for the election of state bodies in subjects of the Russian Federation, as well as local government bodies, and on ensuring electoral rights of citizens. The discussion of the first version of the draft law several days ago was too passionate, and the draft law did not get the needed number of votes. Today the document was approved by the majority of deputies.

Following the coming into force of the new constitution and the need for bringing legislative acts of subjects of the Russian Federation into line with it, as well as in connection with elections to the representative bodies of power and local government bodies in the subjects of the Russian Federation, at which violations of the federal legislation took place, the State Duma resolved to give some recommendations to the president of the Russian Federation as the guarantor of the constitution, of human rights and freedoms.

It recommended to the president to take measures for putting an end to the violation of electoral rights of individuals and the rights of local government bodies in the legal acts of subjects of the Russian Federation, adopted by their executive authorities, including a possible suspension of those legal acts. In the opinion of the State Duma, it is also necessary to take measures for bringing into line with the new Russian Constitution the presidential decrees and normative acts of subjects of the Russian Federation, which regulate general principles of the organisation of representative and executive bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, as well as of local government authorities.

It was suggested to bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, the Russian prosecutor-general and the Central Electoral Commission that they take measures for bringing into line with the Russian Constitution and legislation legal acts of subjects of the Russian Federation on the election of bodies of state power and local government authorities.

The Committee for the Affairs of the Federation and Regional Policy and the Committee for Local Government Problems of the State Duma were assigned to work out as a matter of priority federal draft laws on general principles of the organisation of the system of state bodies in subjects of the Russian Federation, as well as local government bodies.

Duma Receives List of Treaties To Be Ratified

MK1102103094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 11 Feb 94 p 1

[POSTFACTUM report: "Russian Federation Foreign Ministry on Collaboration With State Duma"]

[Text] At the request of chairmen of the State Duma committees on international affairs, CIS affairs, and relations with compatriots, the Foreign Ministry has prepared a list of international treaties and agreements that are subject to ratification by parliament. Marked in the list are treaties and agreements that, according to the Foreign Ministry, should be ratified on a priority basis. These are documents that regulate Russia's relations with a number of states. Some documents included in the list deal with disarmament questions, confidence-building measures, and Russia's accession to a number of conventions and protocols.

Voykov Appointment Causes Debate in Duma

LD1102113794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1040 GMT 11 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Alexandrova]

[Text] Moscow February 11 TASS—Meeting on Thursday [10 February], the council of the Russian State Duma, which consists of the heads of parliamentary factions, has appointed Andrey Voykov to head the lower chamber's apparatus, Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin told the chamber today.

Although, in principle, the appointment could have been regarded as a fait accompli and, therefore, was not included in the agenda of the session, figuring only as the speaker's announcement, it triggered a stormy debate in the chamber today. This is explained by the fact that Andrey Voykov had so far held the post of assistant head of the presidential administration and this determined the attitude of some deputies to his candidature.

In the course of the debate, triggered by the speaker's announcement, it became clear that representatives of the factions of the Agrarian Party, the Communist Party, and the Liberal-Democratic Party were in principle against this candidature. Finally, however, the right to make the final decision was left to the speaker. Most deputies, attending the session, voted against Rybkin presenting the new head of the Duma apparatus to them today.

Rybkin Comments on Ways To Run Lower Chamber

LD1102072694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0709 GMT 11 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow February 11 TASS—Speaker of the Russian State Duma Ivan Rybkin made it clear that he would not run the lower chamber the way former parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov did and is going to cooperate with the president and the prime minister.

"My main task in the assembly hall is to conduct sessions in such a way, so that, without imposing my own point of view, all opinions of deputies are clarified and the rights of the minority protected", Rybkin told the "NEW WEEKLY GAZETTE" [NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA] on Friday.

Former parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, who was arrested after the October opposition revolt in Moscow, acted in a completely different way, denying the floor to his opponents and imposing his own will on the parliament.

Rybkin also said that since the moment of his election as the speaker he had seen no opposition from the president and the prime minister.

"From the very beginning of my activities as the chairman of the Duma all contacts with the president, the prime minister, mayors of Moscow and St. Petersburg show that there is no hostility between us. These are normal businesslike relations", Rybkin said and added that some politicians would like it to be otherwise.

"Some people, because of their own political interests, do not like such a normal cooperation. But that is their own problem. The question is not whether they belong to Communists or Agrarians, but in whether they want or do not want to work normally", Rybkin stressed.

The speaker added that he wants to accumulate in his work everything positive from the experience of pre-revolutionary Russian Duma and the former parliament.

Duma Discusses Problems in Russian-Georgian Treaty

LD1002180294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Closed parliamentary hearings on the issue of Russo-Georgian relations in connection with the signing of the treaty of friendship, good-neighborliness and mutual assistance and other issues in Russo-Georgian relations are taking place in the State Duma. Our correspondent Yevgeniy Zherebenkov reports:

[Zherebenkov] Judging from the information which it has been possible to obtain from some of the participants in the hearings, the essence of the proposals made by parliamentarians boils down to the fact that the recently signed Russian-Georgian treaty needs to be substantially amended and in its present form virtually stands no chance of being ratified in the Russian parliament. This is what I was in told in particular by deputy Yevgeniy Ambartsumov:

[Begin Ambartsumov recording] This has to do with the discussion of the Russo-Georgian treaty and of its consequences, especially the hidden consequences. Various points of view on this score are being voiced. The fear is being expressed that the assistance through this treaty to Shevardnadze and the government in order to stabilize the situation in Georgia could turn into the destabilization of the situation in Russia itself, specifically in the area of the northern Caucasus. For instance, the following question arose of what the cost to Russia will be of this—supporting Georgia, equipping military bases, military aid, humanitarian aid, well, taking into account Russia's grave economic situation. The most important problem is relations with the republics of the Northern Caucasus, plus Abkhazia, North Ossetia, etc. [end recording]

Criticism Voiced at Closed Hearing

MK1102115094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 11 Feb 94 p 2

[Aleksey Kirpichnikov, Andrey Lekant report under the "CIS" rubric: "Russia-Georgia Treaty Discussed in Duma. The Ranks of its Opponents Changing Formation"]

[Text] The Duma committee for CIS affairs and relations with compatriots held closed-door hearings yesterday on questions of Russia-Georgia relations in connection with the treaty of friendship, good-neighborliness, and cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Georgia signed by Boris Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze on 3 February.

The pivotal topics of the hearings were points 3 and 4 of the treaty "on aid in the creation of armed forces of the Republic of Georgia, equipping them, and the acquisition of armaments, military hardware and technology," and on border troops of Russia and Georgia, as well as a point on the recognition of the republic's territorial integrity—that is to say, questions which in sum could lead to an exacerbation of the situation in the region. Aired at the hearings were messages from many Caucasus regions whose authorities doubt that the Georgian side could guarantee that arms provided by Russia will not end up in the hands of criminal elements, while Mr. Zatulin, chairman of the committee for CIS affairs, voiced bewilderment in connection with the appearance in the text of the treaty of the names of concrete military bases and of their "branches" on the territory of Georgia.

Present at the hearings were deputations of the Foreign Ministry; the Defense Ministry; the State Committee on Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and Recovery from Natural Disasters; the Ministry for CIS Affairs; the Finance Ministry, and of the other executive branch agencies privy to the elaboration of the treaty and the concomitant agreements, and in addition to them, separately, representatives of the contracting parties of Georgia and Abkhazia.

The arguments in favor of signing the treaty presented by Mr. Pastukhov, deputy foreign minister; by Colonel General Galkin, Defense Ministry representative; and by Mr. Smirnov of the Ministry for CIS Affairs, were sufficiently well considered, according to parliamentary analysts, and raised no special objections from deputies and experts. The main opponent of the arguments was a representative of Abkhazia, Mr. Dzhevgeniya, who put the main stress on the unsettled status of relations between Sukhumi and Tbilisi.

At the close of the session, journalists were admitted to the room to hear commentaries from participants in the hearings. Konstantin Zatulin promised a corresponding statement from his committee, but not before Monday. On the whole, the deputies' dissatisfactions with the agreement boiled down to two: first, the text of the documents; second, the signing procedure. The latter dissatisfaction seems to have especially hurt the committee on CIS affairs and its chairman personally: The documents had been prepared without their knowledge, the appeal by all Duma factions to the president not to sign the treaty for the time being had been ignored, and Boris Yeltsin's word that he was not going to submit the document for ratification before Georgian-Abkhaz and Georgian-Ossetian relations have been normalized, placed the authors of the above appeal in an idiotic situation. Mr. Zatulin tried to get out of it by pointing out, on one hand, the fruitful contacts with the executive branch at the time of organizing the hearings; and on the other, by supposing that it was the appeal of the Duma factions that made the president wait a little for the ratification of the treaty. A plausible version, but too elaborate.

Most likely, the main objective of those who arranged the hearings was to demonstrate their ability to organize calm multilateral negotiations and discussions, while their motive was the fact that Mr. Zatulin apparently did not wish to be branded for causing yet another standoff between the two power branches.

Faction Calls For Veto on Air Strikes in Bosnia

LD1102091694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0806 GMT 11 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent]

[Text] Moscow February 11 TASS—An influential faction of the Russian State Duma resolutely protested against possible air strikes on Bosnia and called on the Russian leadership to veto them if the issue is discussed in the UN Security Council.

"The Russian representative in the Security Council should use the right of the veto in case the issue of air operations of NATO (in Bosnia) is discussed", the Party of Russian Unity and Accord (PRES), headed by Sergey Shakhray, said in a statement circulated in the Duma on Friday.

On Thursday Russia called for an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council on Bosnia.

Air strikes on the conflicting sides in Bosnia are "inadmissible and extremely dangerous", PRES said in the statement, adding that the strikes will cause much more casualties than the mortar attack on Sarajevo market on Saturday which claimed at least 68 lives.

"In the concrete conditions of Bosnia-Herzegovina air strikes cannot be either limited or selective. The tragedy in Sarajevo market will be multiplied in case of bombardments", the faction said.

The direct involvement of NATO forces in combat actions will escalate violence which can spread to other countries and result in unpredictable consequences, the faction warned and said that it is only possible to ensure ground protection of UN humanitarian convoys in Bosnia.

Duma Rejects Proposal on Bosnia Delegation

LD1102103294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1008 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow, February 11 TASS—Russian lawmakers voted down on Friday a proposal of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR) of nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy to send an official delegation of the State Duma to former Yugoslavia for a fact-finding mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The proposal to include the issue into the Friday agenda was made by LDPR member Aleksey Mitrofanov, but was rejected.

During a recent tour of former Yugoslavia, Zhirinovskiy warned the West that he would view any air strikes on Bosnian Serbs as an attack on Russia and pledged full support to the Serbian population.

Also on Friday another Duma faction, the Party of Russian Unity and Accord, released a statement calling for a Russian veto on air strikes if the issue is discussed in the UN Security Council.

Committee Head Views Crisis

LD1302191494 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1440 GMT 13 Feb 94

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Excerpts] [Kalyagin] We have invited to our studio today Vladimir Petrovich Lukin, the chairman of the Committee for International Affairs of the Russian State Duma, who was until very recently Russian ambassador in Washington, and councillor at the embassy of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Mr. Djuro (?Kreneta). Vladimir Petrovich, certain differences have emerged between Russia and its Western partners. What do you think, is this a result of the Zhirinovskiy factor? Or is it a question of deeper, fundamental changes in our foreign policy?

[Lukin] Well, in the first place I would not dramatize, or globalize the Zhirinovskiy factor. What is the Zhirinovskiy factor? Sometimes a politician here only has to start squealing like a piglet or screaming like a woman in labor, and some factors or other start appearing. We are talking about one of the factions, not a majority faction. The statement adopted by the State Duma on Yugoslavia was not a statement proposed by the Liberal Democrats. So we are talking about the mood of the Russian people, and as an expression of this mood, the mood in the Duma itself, not in one faction, but in many, practically the overwhelming majority of factions. This is the mood of our public, which consists of this, that what is needed is international efforts to eliminate this crisis, and in this we differ radically from the Liberal

Democrats, they are needed not by way of using violence—violence will entail further violence, not stop violence. [passage omitted]

[Lukin] I was speaking to the well-known U.S. politician and diplomat James Collins yesterday, at his request, and he admitted that the process is under way, that both the Serbs and Muslims are surrendering their artillery, that is, the process of disarmament is really under way.

[Kalyagin] So you think force will not be used by NATO?

[Lukin] I cannot think that, because there could be two alternatives here. The alternative of genuine interest on the part of NATO and the Western countries in Sarajevo not being shelled—this is a legitimate interest—and the alternative of looking for any pretext, which is unfortunately being whipped up by some of the Muslim leaders, to intervene at any price and insist their own understanding and their own solution to this matter. Just look at what happened with the so-called mortar bomb at the Sarajevo market. This is really very similar to the Reichstag fire, it was as though it was done to order immediately prior to the foreign ministers' conference, the day before.

[Kalyagin] And if the bombing still goes ahead? What could that lead to? What do you think?

[Lukin] If that happens, it could lead to very bad consequences in terms of Russia's relations, our trust in the countries of the West. You see, there are two kinds of relations—relations between partners, and relations with a boss. When a decision is made first, and then the other side is informed of the decision that has already been made, that is relations with a boss. Relations between partners mean that first of all there is very careful and serious discussion of the issues, and then a joint, considered decision is made. That is what I am in favor of. [passage omitted]

Regional Affairs

Shakhray Advises Solving Chechnya's Problems

MK1102100594 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Feb 94 p 3

[Irek Namyz report in the "Russian Federation" column: "The 'Roundtable' on Nationalities Issues. Sergey Shakhray Advises Attending to Chechen Problems"]

[Text] The "roundtable" on nationalities problems in Moscow yesterday heard statements by Ramazan Abdulatipov, Federation Council speaker; and Sergey Shakhray, nationalities and regional policy minister. According to Ramazan Abdulatipov, in the present situation it is necessary to study the problem of self-determination of the Russian people and to devote a separate scientific conference to the Russian question in Russia. Sergey Shakhray formulated three principles of his department's activity: National parity, self-organization, and national paternalism. "I do not agree with the thesis that the curve of interethnic conflicts in Russia is falling," Sergey Shakhray stated. In his words, the ongoing division of portfolios at the center has left the Russian regions to their own devices. The nationalities minister believes that self- organization by part of the Russian population in crisis areas can bring about a situation where Russians also become an armed party to interethnic conflicts. He said that the ministry will form three subdivisions on three blocks of problems. The first will deal exclusively with nationalities issues; the second, with the financial and economic aspects of regional policy; and the third, with northern problems.

Responding to a question about his attitude to Chechnya, Sergey Shakhray stated that the federal power bodies must finally express their position on this issue, not sweep it under the rug. He thinks that at present the Chechen Republic is part of the Russian Federation de jure but in fact has no economic or political links with Russia, only criminal ones. A preliminary condition for the start of negotiations with Groznyy, according to the minister, should be free democratic elections to power bodies in the Chechen Republic, necessarily with opposition participation. Sergey Shakhray cited the pending treaty with Tatarstan as an example of constructive cooperation between the center and the regions and the building of a new federal policy. In his opinion, such treaties are the sole possible method of removing contradictions between the Russian Federation constitution and the constitutions of the republics.

Chechen Opposition Leader Demands Suleymenov's Release

LD1302185494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1747 GMT 13 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy February 13 TASS—Yaragiy Mamodayev, head of the Chechen Government of People's Confidence dissolved by President Dzhokhar Dudayev, demanded that the republic's authorities immediately release General Ibragim Suleymenov.

He said in a press release on Sunday that General Suleymenov "was and remains a member of Chechnya's legally elected parliament, as well as defence minister in the Government of People's Confidence of the Chechen Republic".

"His illegal arrest by supporters of the Chechen ruling regime may exhaust the patience of our government and force it to take adequate measures" if Suleymenov is not set free in the near future, Mamodayev warned. He did not elaborate on "adequate measures" and did not specify the date from which his ultimatum was to come into force. But he stressed that "the Government of People's Confidence has everything it needs for taking such measures".

General Suleymenov headed armed opposition in Chechnya after Dudayev disbanded the Chechen Parliament last spring and declared open war on political opposition. The general formed an opposition army of several hundreds of fighters. In early February, he conducted military exercises of his army and demanded President Dudayev's resignation. On February 9, Suleymenov and his bodyguards were arrested by Chechen Security Department officers. So far, he has not been officially charged with any crime.

Over 200 Miners Continue Strike at Vorkuta Pit

LD1402122194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1110 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] The strike of nearly 300 mine construction workers in pit No. 33 in Vorkuta, Komi Republic of Russia, is five days old. Igor Nikoforov, leader of the Independent Miners' Union in the Pechorashakhtstroy concern told Interfax that the workers would continue their protest action until back payment was guaranteed to them.

Currently, 121 strikers are staying underground and about the same number of them engaging in a sit-in at surface installations. Nearly 20 of them have come down with the flu.

Nikoforov, who stayed the weekend with the strikers trying to convince them to leave the pit and continue their action in surface installations, said that the men were desperate. "They are increasingly irritated with the indifference on the part of the government and some of them suggest addressing the Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy on the theory that he would respond, at least," Nikiforov said.

"The strikers are demanding what they have earned and are tired of problems in collecting the cash due them," Nikiforov continued. They told him that they did not care who the president or the prime minister is when their families are starving.

The union has run out of the strike fund and has no cash to buy foodstuffs for the mine construction workers, Nikiforov said.

North Ossetian Parliament Appoints Government Head

LD1102191894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1427 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] The parliament of the Russian republic of North Ossetia on Friday appointed the republic's recently elected president, Akhsarbek Galazov, head of government.

The legislature also appointed deputy premiers and 16 other ministers, and scheduled the next parliamentary election for March 1995, the time when the term of the present parliament expires. Two drafts for a law on the new parliament, one of them proposed by an opposition leader, Yuriy Koniyev, were returned to relevant committees and commissions for amendment.

Aushev To Run for Ingush Presidency

LD1102223594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2011 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] After he said he would not run for Ingush president on February 27, Ruslan Aushev said he has changed his mind.

In a statement he published jointly with current Ingush Vice President Boris Agapov in Nazran today, Aushev pointed out that "the people's will was above all for him."

During his meeting with candidates to the new republican parliament which will be re-elected on the same day, Aushev was told that the people will boycott the elections and a referendum on the new Ingush constitution if he refused nomination for president.

The statement points out: "We, with respect to the revival of the statehood of the Ingush people, consolidation of the people of Ingushetia in the name of peace and prosperity, having respect for numerous requests, oral and written addresses by workers, elders, clergymen, youth and representatives of all other layers of society and considering it impossible not to meet their wishes, express our consent to fulfil the duties of president and vice president of Ingushetia, if our powers are confirmed at the elections on February 27, 1994."

Observers believe that their statement is actually a form of registration for president and vice president. Their opinion was later confirmed by the central election commission chairman, Batyr Taldiyev.

Karachayevo-Cherkess Premier To Become Head of Republic

LD1402102994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1010 GMT 14 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Styazhkin]

[Text] Cherkessk February 14 TASS—A session of the Karachayevo-Cherkess Supreme Soviet (Parliament) has adopted a resolution under which the chairman of the Karachayevo-Cherkess Council of Ministers will be vested with powers of the head of the republic until the adoption of a constitution.

Under the resolution, the head of the republic will hold the top post in the republican executive authority, will form the republican Council of Ministers after discussing it with his assistants and will coordinate with its presidium the appointment and dismissal of ministers, heads of republican committees and senior officials from all other state management bodies.

The fundamentals of the constitutional system of the Karachayevo-Cherkess republic will be outlined in acordance with the results of a republican referendum, scheduled for April 24, a spokesman for the republican parliament told ITAR-TASS. There will be only one question on the ballot paper: Do you think the introduction of the post of president is necessary in the Karachayevo-Cherkess republic?

Yeltsin Sacks Yamal-Nenets Okrug Head for Abuse of Power

LD1202182594 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1650 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] The Russian president has released Lev Bayandyn, the head of administration of the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, from his duties today. The document notes that this decision was taken in view of the fact that he regularly exceeded his powers.

International Affairs

Servicemen in UN Forces in Bosnia To Be Replaced

LD1002215094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2110 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Vladimir Novak for TASS]

[Text] Odessa February 10 TASS—A transport airliner carrying a group of servicemen from the Odessa Military District left the Ukrainian city of Nikolayev for Sarajevo on Thursday. They are to replace the fighters of the Ukrainian battalion who have already served their time in U.N. Peacekeeping Forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

According to Commander of the Odessa Military District Vladimir Shkidchenko, the current rotation is not a usual one, since a unit of Ukrainian volunteers will for the first time include eight women, largely surgical nurses. Earlier, Ukrainian servicemen had to seek for medical assistance in American and German hospitals and to pay for this in hard currency.

The Ukrainian parliament passed a decision to increase the numerical strength of the Ukrainian battalion in Bosnia-Herzegovina up to 1,220 fighters, the commander reported. Preparations for this have already got underway, including on the basis of the Nikolayev garrison's training centre.

Kravchuk: UNSC Should Discuss Problem of Air Strikes

LD1102202094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1703 GMT 11 Feb 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] President Leonid Kravchuk believes that the problem of air strikes on positions of Bosnian Serbs in Sarajevo should be considered by the UN Security Council [UNSC].

If there is no other way, measures should be taken. Not only one or several states, but the entire world community should decide on this, he told journalists in Kiev Thursday.

The president believes the coincidence of positions of Ukraine and Russia on the issue is incidental. "I am sure that our positions will continue to coincide," he said.

Answering questions about the internal political situation in Ukraine, including on the republic's federalization, Kravchuk said that he favored broad economic freedom to all regions of Ukraine. However, he said: "I believe the question is premature from a political point of view." At the same time the president admits that the idea could be expedient in the future.

Asked what political structure for Ukraine - presidential or parliamentary - would seem preferable for him, Kravchuk said: "I prefer the political structure of France, where, he said, a strong parliament co-exists with the president who has large powers.

Foreign Minister Zlenko told reporters in Madrid that the NATO decision on air strikes if Bosnian Serbs refuse to lay down arms may aggravate the situation around Sarajevo and will put under threat the lives of Ukrainian servicemen who are part of the UN peacekeeping contingent in the zone.

Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy told journalists in Kiev Thursday that in case of air raids, the Ukrainian battalion will be withdrawn to a safer place. He also said that Ukraine does not intend to give up its preliminary understanding with the United Nations on tripling its military presence within the framework of the UN peacekeeping force in the former Yugoslavia.

Late last year the Ukrainian parliament decided to increase the Ukrainian battalion in Sarajevo from 400 to 1,220 servicemen.

Interpretation of Kravchuk Stance Derided

WS1102170494 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] A few minutes ago, we received a statement from the press service of the Ukrainian president and the Cabinet of Ministers. On 10 February, REUTER inaccurately reported on the stance of Leonid Kravchuk on the possible bombardment of Bosnian Serb military positions around Sarajevo. In particular, REUTER claims that the Ukrainian president said that he does not see any alternative to the onset of air attacks on the Serbian positions sanctioned by the United Nations. In connection with this, REUTER reported on the evident change in the Ukrainian president's previous position on this issue. This does not correspond to reality.

The statement from the press service of the Ukrainian president and the Cabinet of Ministers cites the entire text of Kravchuk's interview with REUTER. This text shows that President Kravchuk confirmed REUTER's supposition that the stances of Ukraine and Russia, which are opposed to air strikes on the Bosnian Serbs, are close to each other. In addition, Leonid Kravchuk stated that, in general, this is not the first time the stances of Ukraine and Russia have been close to each other. I am convinced that our stances on such international issues as strengthening global peace, the social protection of people and their human rights and freedoms, and on other international issues were, are, and will be close. We will cooperate and coordinate our policy with Russia, said Leonid Kravchuk. Answering a question as to who—NATO or the UN Security Council—will decide on the bombardment of Bosnian Serbs, Leonid Kravchuk definitely spoke in favor of the UN Security Council, because the issue under discussion is connected with a forceful invasion. Next, Leonid Kravchuk said: I admit this option when there is no other way out, when blood is shed and people are dying. Simply put, my hair stands on end when I hear the reports of how people, including children, are dying there, in what terrible conditions they are living, and how much has been destroyed. Both the land and people's soul are devastated. If there is no other way to stop this nightmare, we have to use other approaches, however, this should not be the decision of a single country, this should be a decision made by the entire international community. I always favored and still favor this option. [Words indistinct], however, there are international organizations—the United Nations and its Security Council, the EC, and others. This issue should be resolved by the highest level international organizations.

Therefore, you can see that the REUTER report does not at all correspond to what Leonid Kravchuk really said. The press service of the Ukrainian president and the Cabinet of Ministers is authorized to denounce the REUTER report as totally changing the gist of the Ukrainian president's remarks.

Officials on Kravchuk's Remarks

LD1302004294 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2200 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] The Ukrainian Presidential Cabinet press service circulated a statement which refutes REUTER's 10 February report as distorting President Kravchuk's utterances on the issue of retaliatory bombardment of the Bosnian Serbs' positions around Sarajevo. The REUTER story quotes President Kravchuk as saying that he sees no alternative to a UN-sanctioned air strike and makes a conclusion about the president's altered position on this issue. In fact, though, as the full transcript of Mr. Kravchuk's replies testifies, the Ukrainian president confirmed the correspondent's assumption about coincidence of opinions on the subject held by Ukraine's and Russia's presidents, who are against the bombardment. Replying to a question about who should make the air strike decision, NATO or the UN Security Council, President Kravchuk said quite unambiguously that it should be made by the UN Security Council since it would be a decision on a forceful interference. President Kravchuk further said that he was aware that a variant of developments was possible with bloodshed and massacre which there would be no other way to stop but make such a decision. [sentence as heard] But such a decision must be made by the world community, not just one nation, the Ukrainian president said.

'Political Efforts' Needed

LD1102145794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1319 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Kiev—Asked by journalists on 10 February to comment on Ukraine's stance on the prospect of bombing Bosnian Serbs, the aggressors in the former Yugoslavia, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said, in particular, that the joint Russian and Ukrainian position on this issue—that these countries spoke against this action—should not be a surprise. Kravchuk said he was convinced that Ukraine and Russia would also share common views on issues relating to peace and security in the future. While the Russian stance categorically objects, however, to the possibility of bombing, Kravchuk noted: "This step should be taken if there are no other ways to stop the insanity, but this must be settled by the world community—through the United Nations or the CSCE—rather than by one state".

On 11 February, Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Anatoliy Zlenko telephoned the head of the Russia Foreign Ministry regarding the initiative. They discussed the issue of Russian-Ukrainian relations and the development of the international situation. They examined the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in particular, in the light of the latest NATO Council's decisions. Both sides expressed the opinion that the settlement of the situation should take place through stepping up political efforts—primarily within the framework of the UN Security Council—rather than through escalating combat actions.

Zlenko Discusses Air Strikes

LD1102202494 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry continues active political consultations with its counterparts in other states on the situation in the Sarajevo area in connection with the latest decision by the NATO council. Following consultations with foreign ministers of Spain and Egypt, Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Anatoliy Zlenko held telephone conversations on 11 February with foreign ministers of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Croatia, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Central to the consultations is the issue of preventing possible deterioration of the conflict in the Balkans, as well as security guarantees for the UN peacekeeping forces in the region.

Meanwhile, consultations are under way at the United Nations, and Ukraine's representative in the Security Council is expected to speak on the issue.

Defense Minister Views Options in Bosnia

LD1002224794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1950 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy said at a press conference in Kiev on Thursday [10 February] that the Ukrainian battalion would be withdrawn to safe positions if air attacks were carried out against Bosnian Serbs.

However, he emphasized that Ukraine did not intend to back down from the earlier agreement with the UN concerning an increase in Ukraine's military presence in the former Yugoslavia by 3 times its current number within the scope of UN peacemaking forces.

The Ukrainian parliament decided to increase the personnel of the Ukrainian battalion within the UN forces in Sarajevo from 400 to 1,220 people in late 1993.

Parliamentary Official Supports Air Strikes

LD1102183094 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Kiev, 11 Feb—Dmytro Pavlychko, chairman of the Supreme Council Commission for Foreign Affairs, supported the view upholding the necessity of air strikes against Serbian positions in the outskirts of Sarajevo. He warned, however, that the strike can cause deaths among UN servicemen, specifically members of the Ukrainian battalion.

"Despite the opinion of the Ukrainian leader, I dare say that this problem needs to be discussed and thought out," Dmytro Pavlychko said. "Russia is trying to scare the world saying that NATO air forces' intervention in Bosnia's problems would mean a war against Russia. But if the world community continues to tolerate murderers, this can end up in the extermination of Muslims. If we stand by this view, we are acting in an inhumane way. I am in favor of returning to this problem at the level of top responsible political leaders of the great powers," Dmytro Pavlychko emphasized.

It is worth mentioning that Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk in a conversation with journalists in fact supported Russia's stand refusing to interfere in the affairs of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Ambassador to U.S. Meets With Strobe Talbott

LD1302140394 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] Ukraine's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States of America Oleg Bilorus handed U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott the text of the 3 February 1994 resolution by the Supreme Council of Ukraine on full-scale ratification of START I and the Lisbon Protocol. During the conversation at the U.S. State Department, Oleg Bilorus stressed that Ukraine legally confirmed the consistency of the policy toward achieving a non-nuclear status, conducted by the president and the government.

On his part, Strobe Talbott pointed out that the decision by the Ukrainian parliament makes its possible to significantly increase U.S. aid to our state toward the implementation of the programs of dismantling and eliminating nuclear weapons stationed on its territory. He also put special emphasis on the personal contribution and political courage of the president of Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk, who had been defending consistently and selflessly the necessity of the full-scale ratification of START I and the nuclear weapons non-proliferation treaty by Ukraine.

Defense Chief on Partnerhip for Peace Issues

LD1002232994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2100 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Kiev—In his interview with a UNIAN correspondent on 10 February, Ukraine's Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy commented on certain aspects of Ukraine's accession to the "Partnership for Peace" treaty. "I have not been calculating the cost of Ukraine's participation in the partnership," he said. "However, regional security is in the forefront of the treaty, while issues which require payments go next. I consider the signing of the treaty to be undoubtedly necessary and urgent. As for the prospects for Ukraine's accession to NATO, our military doctrine stipulates non- alignment, however our army, undoubtedly, has all prerequisites for reforming its infrastructure following the NATO states' pattern."

More Advantageous Nuclear Deal With Russia Viewed

LD1202201394 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] As a result of a meeting between the Ukrainian and Russian Government delegations held in Kiev last week, with the aim of working out a mechanism of dismantling Ukrainian nuclear warheads, Ukraine managed to achieve an agreement in principle, which provides for far more advantageous compensation conditions to Ukraine for the warheads that are being withdrawn [from Ukraine's territory]. This was reported by Nur Nihmatulin, the deputy chairman of the State Committee of Ukraine for the Use of Nuclear Power. Russia can compensate by supplying fuel for the nine reactors operating at Ukrainian nuclear power stations, in an amount ample to maintain the work of the stations throughout 36 to 42 months. The compensation can also be made in the form of writing off or writing down Ukraine's debt for the power sources imported from Russia.

Earlier, the Russian side flatly rejected the possibility of writing off this debt as compensation for the dismantling of the warheads. Ukraine's debt for the oil and gas supplied by Russia now amounts to no less than 800 billion rubles and about 120 billion rubles for the fuel for nuclear power stations.

Undoubtedly, the recent ratification of START I by the Ukrainian Supreme Council has received an unequivocally positive response throughout the world and contributed to relaxing Russia's stand.

National Affairs

Crimean President, Commander View Black Sea Fleet Problem

AU1002162094 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 9 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Yu. Meshkov Met With Admiral E. Baltin"]

[Text] Yuriy Meshkov, president of the Crimean Republic, on 7 February met with Admiral Eduard Baltin, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, in Sevastopol at the Black Sea Fleet Headquarters. Yu. Meshkov pointed out that the Black Sea Fleet "has been and continues to be a guarantor of stability on the peninsula." In his opinion, the problem of the Black Sea Fleet must be resolved in the interests of all CIS members, taking into account the expression of will of the peoples residing in the Crimea and of its supreme legislative and executive bodies. "The question of the fleet, Sevastopol, and the Crimea is a triune problem of the relations between Russia and Ukraine," stressed Meshkov. Admiral E. Baltin, in turn, expressed the hope that the problem of the Black Sea Fleet would be resolved as soon as possible. He is convinced that the problem of the Black Sea Fleet will be resolved "with an account of the opinions of the Black Sea sailors and residents of Sevastopol."

Crimea's Meshkov Forms Large Staff, Asks Ministers To Stay

MK1202135094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Feb 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Crimea"]

[Text] The Crimean president has been continuing to form his administration, which will include 40 assistants and advisers. Observers think it is a very large staff. In addition, the president as a head of state and of the executive branch has the entire Crimean Council of Ministers at his disposal. As a matter of fact, on 8 February Yuriy Meshkov had separate meetings with the power ministers and the rest of the Republic of Crimea's government members. No information about the results of the meetings, however, has been made public. Participants in the meetings have said to your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent that Meshkov told them that he had come without his own team and asked them all to stay on in their offices.

On 10 February, when Meshkov was absent, various people from the presidential administration called Crimean Economy Minister Tatyana Shandra four times during the day. They demanded that a fact sheet on the state of affairs in the peninsula be drawn up and her proposals for ways to lift the economy out of the crisis be presented. Tatyana Shandra told your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent that the documents had been prepared.

Russian Economist Saburov Accepts Premiership

LD1302205794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1912 GMT 13 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Feb—The well-known Russian economist Yevgeniy Saburov has accepted Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov's offer to head the new government of the republic. This was revealed today by the "Itogi" program on NTV [Russian TV channel]. In the recent past Yevgeniy Saburov held the post of economics minister in one of the Russian governments, namely in Ivan Silayev's government.

Explaining his decision in an interview on "Itogi", Yevgeniy Saburov said he was born in the Crimea and his mother and his friends still live there. "The Crimea is my fatherland and my pain," he said. Therefore, in the present situation in the Crimea Saburov believes he must help and hopes he can do something. He also noted that he had agreed to cooperate with the new Crimean president, by whom he said he was very much impressed.

Pro-Ukrainian Party Adopts Program for Crimean Elections

LD1202155994 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] An extraordinary congress of the Ukrainian Civic Congress of Crimea [Ukrayinskyy Hromadyanskyy Konhres Krymu] has taken place in Simferopol. An election program was discussed and confirmed, and so was a list of candidates for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Crimea. It was noted that all of them would defend the idea of developing statehood and would speak in favor of the inviolable unity of Crimea with Ukraine and in favor of peace and international accord in this region of Ukraine.

Crimean Parties Form Bloc, Appeal for Coalition Government

WS1402111094 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0900 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Crimean political parties of centrist orientation—the Union for Support of the Crimean Republic, the Party of Democratic Revival of the Crimea, the Democratic Party of the Crimea, and the Civic Forum of the Crimea—have announced the formation of a new party bloc called "Sozidaniye" [the Creation]. The bloc is ready to share the responsibility for drawing up and implementing the program of economic reform in the autonomous republic with Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov. The first initiative of the new bloc was an appeal to Yuriy Meshkov to form a coalition interparty government. The leaders of "Sozidaniye" intend that the bloc will join the Kuchma-Hrynyov interregional bloc.

Radetskyy on Demilitarization Statement by Meshkov

LD1302183794 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Sevastopol, 12 Feb—Ukraine's Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy arrived in the city on the occasion of the flag-hoisting on board the new anti-submarine ship

"Lutsk". This is already the second visit by the minister to Sevastopol, however, this time his meeting with the Black Sea Fleet Commander Eduard Baltin again failed to take place.

Replying to a question from the journalists on whether the statement by President of Crimea Yuriy Meshkov, on the beginning of the peninsula's demilitarization at the expense of reducing Ukraine's Armed Forces in the Crimea would cause aggravation of Ukrainian-Russian relations, Vitaliy Radetskyy stated that such decisions are outside Yuriy Meshkov's competence. Only the president and the Supreme Council of Ukraine can take such decisions.

Vitaliy Radetskyy told the journalists about the development of the naval forces. The headquarters and the main naval base will be in Sevastopol. The defense minister positively assessed Ukraine's accession to the "Partnership for Peace." He pointed to the erroneous nature of the idea that the Black Sea Fleet was almost the only guarantor of Ukraine's security. "The guarantor of Ukraine's security is its people," pointed out the defense minister.

Replying to the journalists' questions, Vitaliy Radetskyy, in particular, stated that in solving the fate of the fleet one should, first and foremost, draw up an inventory of the fleet and carry out its reduction.

Defense Minister Appoints New Deputy

LD1102233994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2030 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Kiev—A UNIAN correspondent learned from sources close to Ukraine's Defense Ministry that Army General Vitaliy Radetskyy, Ukraine's defense minister, issued an order approving a new deputies staff. As before, Staff Colonel General Anatoliy Lopata is first deputy defense minister. Colonel General Ivan Bizhan, the deputy defense minister also remains in office. Colonel General Hryhoriy Mykhalchenko, the deputy defense minister for rear services, and Ivan Oliynyk, the deputy defense minister for armaments, are joined by the head of the Main Directorate for Land Forces who was promoted to their position. His previous post remains vacant.

Deputy Defense Minister on Nuclear Disarmament

WS1002190094 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Interview with Deputy Defense Minister Ivan Bizhan by Marat Pohorelov; place and date not given; from the "Independence" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Pohorelov] Many lances have been broken on the issue of nuclear weapons deployed in Ukraine. The concrete steps toward the resolution of this issue are often assessed without taking into account the actual reality and the set of all existent factors, that is to say, in a one-sided parochial view. Therefore, the issue returns once and again to be viewed in our programs. Today we will take a look at this with the help of General Colonel Ivan Bizhan, deputy defense minister.

[Bizhan] Despite the fact that a great deal has been said about this issue in the press, television, and on the radio, many people are still interested in it. I would like to say one more time that not a treaty but a declaration and an annex to this declaration were signed by the presidents of Ukraine, the Russian Federation, and the United States in Moscow. There are no significant discrepancies between this declaration and the Supreme Council resolution on ratifying the START I treaty. I would also want to emphasize that Ukraine's nuclear disarmament issue involves the United States as well. This is exactly what we have wanted from the very beginning, when we began to address this issue.

Carefully looking at the annex to the statement signed by the presidents, one can see that the Russian Federation for the first time committed to service the nuclear warheads deployed in Ukraine, and which, according to the agreement, will be gradually transferred to Russia for dismantling. This is also one of the problems which we had been trying to solve, but which Russia had been refusing to solve, intending to exert pressure on Ukraine through this or to force it to adopt certain decisions. You know that we ourselves cannot maintain these nuclear warheads. Now, one does not have to convince anybody that the nuclear weapons deployed in Ukraine are our property. As you remember, one had to do this until recently, because the Russian Federation by no means wanted to admit that. It claimed that these weapons once belonged to the Soviet Union, and now they should be inherited by the Russian Federation. Therefore, it considered itself the only inheritor of these nuclear weapons. Now, when this problem has ceased to exist, another one arises: What should our state do with these nuclear weapons inherited after the downfall of the Soviet Union? For example, what could be done with the nuclear weapons deployed in Ukraine? Some people say that Ukraine should be a nuclear state. If this problem is examined in the context of nuclear weapons deployed in Ukraine, then how can Ukraine become a nuclear state? If we agree with the Russian Federation that Russia will service the nuclear weapons deployed in Ukraine, and that it will replace nuclear warheads whose warranty and shelf life have expired, and that it will hand over to us the systems of control. However, while saying that, we should ask ourselves a question: Will Russia agree with that? Will the United States agree? Will other states agree? And a whole range of other questions. This is unreal. To link our nuclear weapons to the nuclear status of the state is the only way, however unreal.

Assuming that Ukraine should become a nuclear state, it will be necessary to adopt a resolution to establish an entire infrastructure which a nuclear state should have. We do not have such a structure. Specialists should give their opinion on whether it is possible or not to do this.

Although they have already said a lot about this, let them say more. What will this involve; what problems will this cause; what costs are entailed? What will be the consequences of this decision? Do we need that? Will this increase our security? There are also other problems we should resolve in this regard. Thus, the nuclear weapons deployed on the territory of our state and the nuclear status of our state are two different issues. Now we should solve this issue. The declaration signed by the president of our state and the annex to it concern nuclear weapons that we inherited from the Soviet Union and we currently possess. However, while solving this issue, we should proceed from objective circumstances. No matter what we say and what decisions are adopted, the circumstances are dictating [their terms] now. What kind of circumstances? For example, every nuclear warhead has a certain warranty period. You know that President Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk, at a news conference given at Boryspil airport following his return from Moscow, said that the warranties of all the nuclear weapons deployed in our state will expire in 1999 or 2000. However, they begin to expire as early as this year. Therefore, a certain number of nuclear warheads will surpass their shelf life this year. This means that we will have to deal with this problem every year. No matter what decisions we adopt, we should resolve the problem of nuclear weapons which have surpassed their shelf life. Actually, nuclear weapons are one of the powerful security guarantees for a state, but only if a state is really a nuclear one.

For example, if we had all those elements, or all that infrastructure that accounts for the status of a nuclear state, this would unquestionably be a guarantee of our security. However, the things are not like that. The nuclear weapons deployed in Ukraine today cannot be a guarantee of our security because these weapons are nothing more than our property. The entire control system, the entire production system, the entire servicing and testing system is in the Russian Federation. No matter what our desires are, this is true. For some reason, we have recently discussed only those nuclear weapons which are deployed on our territory, having in mind the problems, or aspects, of our security. However, we should not forget the fact that, with regard to conventional arms, to conventional armed forces, our state is the second power on the continent, after the Russian Federation. Is this not an aspect of our state's security? It is, and it is an aspect that we can maintain on such a level of combat readiness, which would allow our Armed Forces to defend our state. It could be done at the expense of resolving the issue of nuclear weapons which are now in Ukraine. First of all, I have in mind financial aspects, when we will be able to allot larger funds to our conventional Armed Forces. Therefore, I think that we should not forget about this issue, too. Besides, the issue of our state security is an issue of our integration with European structures, including the Partnership for Peace program adopted during the recent NATO session. We should participate. We should integrate with NATO and other structures. It will also be one of the guarantees of our security.

I do not want to mention such issues as friendly relations with other states, in particular, with neighboring states, or the resolution of our many heavy economic problems. The resolution of these problems will also grant us security guarantees. Having resolved the issue of nuclear weapons deployed in our state, we will be able to resolve those other problems and aspects that constitute the entire body of our state security.

[Pohorelov] Ivan Vasylyovich, let us close our interview with the following summation of the nuclear weapon issue in Ukraine today: One cannot be a king for only one day; one must also think about the future.

[Bizhan] Yes, you are right. Our status with regard to nuclear weapons, which are actually our property, is a temporary situation. This temporary situation will terminate at the end of the year of 2000. The number of nuclear warheads will be decreasing every year. No matter what resolution we adopt, the objective circumstances will drive us toward a reduction of nuclear warheads deployed on Ukraine's territory. It is because of objective circumstances and the connection with serious issues related to the nuclear and ecological security of our state. I do not think anyone will adopt a resolution which could bring tragedy, either nuclear or environmental.

'Mistakes' in Army Personnel Policy Viewed

WS1002193094 Kiev KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 5 Feb 94 p 3

[Article by Vilen Martirosyan, chairman of the Council of Ministers Committee for Social Protection of Servicemen: "What 'Accomplishments' Turned Defense Minister's Head?"]

[Text] Presuming that a new stage of building the Ukrainian Armed Forces started after General V. Radetskiy assumed the post of defense minister, we must admit that at this stage the Army's social problems have not only exacerbated but also acquired a specific quality. Over the last two years, we spared no effort to return thousands of Ukrainian servicemen from the hotspots of the former USSR to Ukraine, in accordance with a presidential edict. About 20,000 servicemen returned home while we were expecting 150,000.

Thus, our expectations fell flat. Very rapidly, the number of those who wanted to serve in the Ukrainian Army dramatically plummeted. Today, a contrary process is gaining momentum: A mass drain of officers has started. Some 60 percent of young officers have recently requested dismissal. In Odessa Military District alone, some 2,500 officers resigned in 1992, while in 1993 this figure increased by 30 percent.

It is sad that among those who do everything in their power to resign, there are many high-skilled professionals who only yesterday dreamed of coming back to Ukraine and continue serving under the national banner.

Enlisted men also do not wish to serve in our Army. Most military units are 30 percent under strength. Desertion continues to be a commonplace phenomenon. The number of young people who want to enter military high-education institutions has decreased threefold. Even those whose dissertations are almost ready are leaving.

What makes our servicemen shun the Army that we created? Of course, some of the reasons are widely known, including the acute housing problem (we have more than 80,000 homeless servicemen), low wages, and a dramatic downturn in the prestige of the military profession.

However, there is another reason which is equally important. The point is that over a long period of time, officers have been living in a state of uncertainty. They feel that nobody needs their professional skills. What will happen to them tomorrow? What does the upcoming reduction of the Army have in store for them? Will their social problems be resolved? Nobody gives them any answers. Besides, the Army has no ideological platform, which in turn causes complete confusion.

The servicemen's uncertainty is aggravated with serious mistakes made by the Defense Ministry leadership in the sphere of personnel policy. In the initial stage of forming the Ukrainian Armed Forces, at the initiative of the Officers' Union led by General Major V. Mulyava, an open purge of the officers' corps was carried out. Preference was given to people recommended by those political forces that supported General Colonel K. Morozov.

Since General V. Radetskyy came to the Army, there have been attempts to improve the situation. However, very soon, ministerial offices were manned by people from the new minister's team. Incidentally, these people do not always have necessary education and experience.

For example, we once resolutely opposed the policies of General V. Mulyava who arranged it so that specialists employed in his department were not responsible for anything. Nobody was allowed to hold them responsible for desertion of soldiers, hazing of conscripts, or conflicts in military units. We hoped that the appointment of General V. Kobzar would bring positive changes. However, the ministry has started to form bodies that resemble former political departments, which is even more dangerous than former inaction.

People in the Army are enraged by the fact that military colleges that had a long tradition of training officers are being closed down and their property looted. At the same time, it is hard to understand why the ministry appoints a professional commander who has no concept of resolving pedagogical and scientific problems to the post of Department of Military Education chief. This person's lack of flexibility can do more harm than former chiefs' activities.

It is hard to put up with the return of those military chiefs who were lying in wait while our Army was being built. Today, they all rushed to divide the spoils of victory. This leads to never ending reshuffles and fights for cushy jobs.

I understand that this overabundance of generals seems quite natural to Defense Ministry officials, but among the military this trend meets with ever growing indignation. Officers keep asking me: Is this a feast in times of trouble or intoxication with success? Are the degeneration of military training in units, the deterioration of combat readiness, and the destruction of the system of military education considered accomplishments?

I understand perfectly well that General V. Radetskiy is making his first steps in his new post and it would be unfair to blame everything on him. I also understand that after the publishing of this article I am going to become an object of harsh criticism.

However, being one of those who initiated the fight for the creation of a new Ukrainian Army, I cannot put up with the fact that our most elated ideals may be rejected as worthless junk and buried under the trash of personal ambitions and militant nonprofessionalism. I am grieved to see that having discarded many useful things that existed in the Soviet Army, we have inherited solely its negative traits. The people hoped that we would build an Army from which servicemen would return home unharmed, where officer's honor would be the most valuable virtue, and where brotherhood in arms would not be a meaningless phrase. It seems that today, we are farther from this ideal than we were two years ago.

The Committee for the Social Protection of Servicemen is not going to turn a blind eye to these drawbacks. We will continue to fight for rooting out these disgraceful phenomena, even if somebody does not like this.

The Defense Ministry Chief Personnel Directorate can serve as a vivid example of an over-staffed department. In the former Soviet Army, 100 specialists were dealing with personnel issues of servicemen deployed in three military districts. The same number of officers led by Lieutenant General A. Ignatenko resolved the complex issues of the formation of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Right now, when the numerical strength of the Army has been reduced twofold, the number of personnel clerks has doubled.

The race for ranks and posts has reached exorbitant dimensions. I remember how we were planning that there would be no more than 100 generals in the Ukrainian Army. However, as early as this year, there are more than 300 of them. Thirty two officers were promoted to the rank of general on Ukrainian Army Day alone. I want to point out that there are only 200 generals in all of NATO.

We have become accustomed to breakneck careers. The unheard-of promotion of V. Mulyava from sergeant to general has become the talk of the town, but the fact that V. Kobzar in three months covered the distance between colonel to lieutenant general is also far from normal. I, for one, was a regiment commander for 13 years before being promoted to general.

K. Paustovskiy once wrote that in times of flourishing, states produce heroes and in times of decline—bureaucrats.

Black Sea Fleet Helicopters Collide Over Crimea

LD1002211094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Two Black Sea Fleet Air Force Mi-8 helicopters have collided over Crimean territory. The catastrophe has resulted in casualties. An RIA correspondent was told this by well-informed sources. An investigation commission set up by the Russian Defense Ministry has so far not received permission to fly through Ukrainian airspace to the scene of the incident.

Belarus

Kebich Urges Peaceful Solution in Bosnia Crisis

WS1102210494 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1815 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Report by Ivan Hladki on speech by Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich on 11 February; place not given—Kebich's remarks recorded]

[Text] [Hladki] Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich delivered a speech to journalists today to clarify the statement of the Belarusian Government on the recent events in Bosnia-Herzegovina. These events concern every honest person, the prime minister emphasized. Therefore, the Belarusian Government decided to issue this statement, he stressed.

[Kebich] The Republic of Belarus is extremely concerned with the latest explosion in Sarajevo on 5 February, which increases the aggressiveness and escalates the tension of the conflict. The Republic of Belarus, as well as all mankind, condemns the forces who carried out this extremely cruel operation. Belarus thinks that such actions cannot be currently tolerated, especially as the issue of settling this crisis is the focus of attention of the United Nations, the EC, and other regional organizations as they look for political ways of settling the dispute. Under these conditions, Belarus was and is consistently and decisively adhering to nonforceful methods of alleviating the crisis. The resolution of this conflict can only be based on a thorough investigation and analysis of the events that occurred, on joint consultations under UN Security Council guidance and that of other regional international organizations. Under the increased tension, the involved parties should demonstrate extreme caution, political wisdom, and, to the greatest degree possible, restrain from military action. This policy will be the best option for the interests of all the states of Europe and the world.

[Hladki] Then Vyacheslav Frantsevich added:

[Kebich] We proceed from the thought that if the air strikes are carried out, this could actually divide not only Europe but the entire world as well. Moreover, we had a sour experience when World War I began with a similar conflict in the same region. Therefore, the Republic of Belarus considers that this conflict could be settled by peaceful methods. Even if these events have not been excited by someone else, they would not have happened at all. [sentence as heard]

[Hladki] Participants in this meeting also discussed a political strike which is being prepared by certain political circles in Belarus. Though the Cabinet of Ministers has already published a statement on this issue, Vyacheslav Kebich stated:

[Kebich] The strike, which is scheduled for 15 February, is of a purely political character. Its aim is to forcibly seize power by using the people. Many people have already sorted out this situation as to who heads this political action. Industrial trade unions have behaved correctly, because they understood the political character of this strike and [words indistinct]. I must say that this political action is carried by someone's very dirty hands. [Words indistinct] we try to do everything to avoid incidents. We know that the main aim of this political strike is to frustrate the government and trigger various incidents. However, this will not happen. Rumors of our readiness to use troops and special militia detachments are a simple provocation and a lie that are directed first and foremost against the government. I must say that I do not see any danger for the government [words indistinct]. The government is working and performing its functions. As for the measures to prevent the strike, they can only be legal.

Kebich on Monetary Union With Russia, Disarmament

LD1302144094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1321 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] The unification of the Belarusian and Russian monetary systems does not mean that Belarus will advance towards market relations the Russian way, stated Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich.

He told Interfax in an exclusive interview that the forthcoming unification of the two monetary systems should not be viewed as a political-economic union. "Neither is it true that Belarus and Russia have betrayed the idea of creating a single economic system within the CIS," he said. "On the contrary, by uniting our monetary systems we are giving a real content to this idea, and strengthen and broaden the common economic system," he added.

He said that the recent reshuffling in the government will not tell on the Belarusian policies. "As to the monetary union with Russia, it will allow Belarus to advance towards market relations more rapidly," said Kebich. He admitted that the resignation of Shushkevich had not made the prime minister's work any easier, but gave to understand that Shushkevich's resignation from the post of parliament speaker had opened the door on the ratification of the CIS agreement on collective security by the Belarusian parliament.

Speaking about cuts in the Belarusian offensive weapons, Kebich said that if Belarus was not given financial assistance in disarmament, it would not be able to eliminate tanks and aircraft at the old rate according to international agreements. He said that Belarus bore all of the related expenses on its own.

The economic problems complicate the financing of the disarmament program, said Kebich. He also pointed out that Belarus was honestly and consistently implementing its commitments to cut down armaments and would continue to do so in the future.

Border Agreement With Russia Signed in Minsk

LD1202114394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Andrey Nikolayev, commander in chief of the Russian Border Troops, and Yawgen Bacharow, commander of the Belarus Border Troops, initialled the draft of an intergovernmental agreement on border questions at their meeting in Zaslavl. Here is Yuriy Sverko, our Minsk correspondent with the details.

Bacharow did not rule out the possibility that this agreement could be signed by the prime ministers of the two countries during Viktor Chernomyrdin's forthcoming visit to Minsk. Nikolayev stated at a news conference in Zaslavl that this was the first such agreement between Russia and another CIS country.

Replying to a question from the correspondent about the future of the Russian-Belarus border, Nikolayev said: If not just [Belarus] national interests but also Russian interests are protected on the borders between Belarus and non-Commonwealth states and the interests of Belarus are protected on Russian borders, if the heads of government sign the document that has been initialled, then totally new relations will begin and there will be no reason for having any special regime on the border between Russia and Belarus.

In the opinion of the head of Russia's Federal Border Service, the border with Belarus should be open. This will require the drawing together of the two countries' laws and other normative documents, the coordination of customs services activities and health control. If the internal borders of the CIS are to be closed, Nikolayev noted, then the economic alliance between the countries of the Commonwealth will never begin to operate properly.

At the meeting near Minsk there was also discussion on the question of creating identical border regimes on Russia's and Belarus' borders with Latvia and Lithuania. Nikolayev said that the Russian Federation was ready to carry out an expert examination of the work carried out in Belarus and to pay its share. This, Bacharow stated, would comprise up to 50 percent of Belarus' expenditure in building and equipping installations on the borders with the Baltic countries.

Cabinet Issues Statement on Russia, Strike

LD1002231494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1413 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By BELINFORM correspondent Larisa Lazar for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 10 Feb—The current socioeconomic crisis in the republic is a direct consequence of destroying integration processes in the economy, says a statement which the Presidium of the Belarusian Council of Ministers adopted today. In this connection the document says that the "consistent and well-thought- out moves by the republic's government aimed at a close economic union with Russia mean, above all, a policy of common sense, socio- economic stabilization and overcoming the crisis".

As is known, an indefinite political strike is planned for 15 February. Its participants intend to demand the government's resignation, holding early elections to the Supreme Soviet and electing a government of national confidence. The Presidium of the Council of Ministers describes these demands as "political adventurism and violation of the constitution" and as an attempt by certain political forces "to drive the republic to chaos and to put it on the verge of civil confrontation".

"Calls for a political strike and social disobedience are nothing else but an attempt to eliminate the legally elected power," the statement says. The document also says that the sovereignty and independence of the state are being built on the basis of a solid economic foundation. The foundation cannot be laid by internal self-isolation and by trying to fence ourselves off from neighboring states with whom we have not only common history in the past and present but in the future as well.

The statement says "both fraternal peoples, close in their spirit, culture and history, equally need social stability at present. The guarantor of this stability is the economic union of the two states. The two states have natural interest in each other and will not allow any attempts to create political and human barriers between them."

Hryb Hails Results of CIS Assembly, Derides Strike

WS1002200194 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1815 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Today, Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb held a news conference addressing the results of the work of the Belarusian delegation at the session of the Council of the Inter- Parliamentary CIS Assembly, which was held in St. Petersburg. Journalists were also interested in hearing the legislative leader's opinions on issues related to Belarusian domestic life. In particular, speaking about the political strike scheduled for 15 February, Mechyslaw Hryb said: My attitude toward strikes is extremely negative. I am for the resolution of disputable issues through diplomatic means. Speaking about the work of the Interparliamentary CIS Assembly, Mechyslaw Hryb said that all the sessions were held in an atmosphere of mutual respect and constructive work. A range of issues—in particular, on the convening of a regular meeting in April or May in Beshkek—were discussed.

Moldova

Russia Reportedly To Provide Military Equipment

AU1002161894 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2000 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 9/2/1994—Russia will deliver to Moldova "special technique and other types of production for needs of defence and security," as stipulated in the Moldo-Russian Agreement on Economic and Commercial Collaboration for 1994, signed on 7 February in Moscow. The Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and the State Stock Company "Oboronpromkomplex" of Russia, and the Moldovan Defence Ministry are authorized to perform such imports. Deliveries of "military equipment will be legalized by a separate protocol (agreement) and made on the basis of reciprocity (clearing)," states the document. It is stressed that these commercial exchanges are free of customs taxes, Ion Mastac, head of Moldovan Defence Ministry Press Secretariat, told BASAPRESS that previously a meeting was planned between representatives of both states' ministries, in order to sign an agreement on deliveries of equipment. However, these deliveries do not include any weaponry, said Mastac. Sources from the Ministry of Commerce and Material Resources said "we import absolutely everything the Army needs, from cloth to technical means," without specifying what sort of technique. Same sources inform that an agreement on these deliveries was signed, but once the State Company "Oboronpromkomplex" was created, imports were stopped. A division at the Ministry of Commerce and Material Resources is specialized in imports of equipment for needs of state defence and security.

Russian Army Warns It Will Not Stand Aside in Conflict

MK1002141094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Feb 94 p 3

[Unattributed NEGA report in the "Moldova" column]

[Excerpt] "In the event of a large-scale military conflict, regardless of who might provoke it, the 14th Russian Army shall reserve the right to cool the hotheads."

This was announced by the 14th Russian Army Military Council. The statement, circulated on 9 February, was prompted by the emergency situation in the region. The statement is addressed to residents on either bank of the Dniester. In the run-up to parliamentary elections in Moldova, the statement stresses that "the flying wheel of military psychosis is being spun both by Dniester and Moldova TV." The authors of the document cite political negotiations as the sole method of achieving accord. As Aleksandr Baranov, 14th Army assistant commander, explained to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent, this statement has been forwarded to the leadership of Tiraspol and Chisinau. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Calls Army's Threats 'Destabilizing'

AU1202133394 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2044 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 10/2/1994—Assuming the responsibility it was not granted, the Russian 14th Army has an obviously careless tone, proceeding to frank threat using force against Moldova unless conditions it had imposed are satisfied, states a declaration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAF), spread today. On January 8th 1994, the 14th Army Military Council declared that if a new conflict unleashes in Moldova's east, the 14th Army reserves the right to involve in the conflict's solution. The Army does not want to recognize the doubtless truth that it is a foreign army dislocated on the territory of an independent and sovereign state with which it cannot talk in a language of dictation and blackmail, states the declaration. "It seems unbelievable that the published document was not inspired and coordinated with the Russian Defence Ministry." The declaration mentions that "by the said declaration of its Military Council, the Russian 14th Army proves again that it is the main destabilizing factor in the region. The exaggerate militarizing of east regions, the persecution of those with different opinions, circulation restrictions and the banned participation in Moldovan Parliament elections leave no doubt on where the instigator and the actual centre of an eventual armed conflict and provocation is, states the MAF declaration.

Snegur Accuses Russian Army of 'Crude Interference'

LD1102225294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1926 GMT 11 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents]

[Text] Kishinev February 11 TASS—Plagued with dissent in its provinces as the election date is drawing closer, the Moldovan leadership is seeking to consolidate the voters by scaring them with a finger pointing at "an enemy".

The Foreign Ministry of this ex-Soviet republic accused the command of the 14th Russian Army deployed in the Moldovan breakaway Dniester Province of "crude interference into the affairs of the republic" and said in a statement issued on Friday the Russian Army was "the main destabilising factor in the Dniester region".

However, ealier this week, the Russian Army Command warned all sides against "the illusion that the conflict can be solved by force". It did say though that it would not stand on the sidelines if anything untowards happened and promised that "the organizers of armed provocations from either bank (of the Dniester River) will get severe punishment for any attempt to unleash a new conflict".

The Foreign Ministry said that such statements "undermine bilateral negotiations on the future of the 14th Army" and reiterated that the Moldovan leadership "insists on an unconditional pullout of the army".

The statement then switched away from the Russian Army and blasted the leadership of the Dniester region for "blocking any constructive effort of Kishinev aiming to ensure peace in the region" and for not allowing the area residents to participate in Moldova's parliamentary elections scheduled for February 27. The tone for the criticism must have been set by Moldovan Presdient Mircea Snegur, who, still earlier in the week, accused Tiraspol, the Dniester area administrative centre, of attempting to further aggravate the social and political situation in the republic.

The situation is evidently hotting up in the Dniester Province. Already on Wednesday, the parliament of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic responded to verbal attacks by calling on the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and the heads of the CIS states to send observers for "the objective assessment of the situation".

"The presence of international observers may prevent an economic siege and a new military conflict in the region", the appeal of the Dniester parliament said. The call was prompted by the sense of an impending strike. "A single act of provocation will be enough to have a military conflict unleashed", Valeriy Prudnikov, chief of police in the Dniester town of Bendery told ITAR-TASS on Tuesday.

To complicate the matter, the Russian Army and the Dniester area are not the only pains in the back for Kishinev. The leaders of the self-proclaimed Gagauz Republic in southern Moldova poured oil in the fire by insisting that the 14th Russian Army deployed in the former Soviet republic must be granted the status of a peace-keeping force. This will prevent Kishinev's possible attempts at solving by force the problem of Moldova's two provinces - Dniester and Gagauz, said a statement signed by Gagauz leaders.

Rather mollifying sounded the Friday statement of a CSCE official Slavomir Dabrova, a Pole working for the CSCE mission in Moldova. He predicted there would be no new military conflicts since "the 1992 conflict with no winner was a good lesson for politicians in Kishinev and Tiraspol".

"However, it is still a long way to the complete settlement of the Moldovan conflicts, and international organisations should work hard to untie this knot", he added.

PDAM Leader Categorically Opposes Romanian Unification

AU1102165394 Bucharest CURIERUL NATIONAL in Romanian 9 Feb p 3

[Report by R.F.: "Dumitru Motpan, leader of the Agrarian Democratic Party of Moldova: I Am Against Territorial Unification With Romania"]

[Text] On Monday, 8 February, BBC radio broadcasted a statement by Dumitru Motpan, leader of the Agrarian Democratic Party of Moldova [PDAM], in which he denied making any declaration about unification with a part of Romanian territory [Moldavia]. Moreover, Mr. Motpan said that the official position of his party is to ensure the independence of the Republic of Moldova, without any territorial claims from Romania or any other state. As far as the future of the Republic of Moldova's relations with Romania is concerned, the PDAM leader said that he favors: "A real integration in the economic, cultural, educational, and other areas but not on issues connected with annexation, unification, and so forth. I personally, as well as our party, am categorically against territorial unification with Romania."

PCNM Leader Advocates Reunification With Romania

AU1202132894 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2044 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 10/2/1994—During today's press conference of Moldovan Christian National Party (PCNM), the leadership presented its electoral program mentioning that they represent "those who know themselves to be Romanians and want to unite with the Motherland, Romania." Vladimir Nicu, PCNM chairman, said that "PCNM is a political party of Romanians from territories east to Prut and of Christian Orthodox spirit of this suffering land." The party enters the electoral battle to liquidate in law and in fact the consequences of Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact with "the sacred goal to reintegrate the Romanian nation," said Nicu. Referring to the Congress of Moldovan Civic Alliance, PCNM representatives stated that the congress was held from Moldovan Government's initiative. They called it "an insult to the Romanian's dignity, tricolor, hymn and blazon." "These insults were made in the present of President Mircea Snegur, Speaker Petru Lucinschi and Premier Andrei Sangheli, and they applauded at them," said Nicu. He asked rhetorically "what sort of common house is Moldova if PCNM representatives were not allowed to take part in the congress?" PCNM representatives called the movement "Pro Moldova" a subdivision of "Moldovans' Alliance" in Dniester organized by KGB and Maracuta. PCNM declared itself a nationalist party, saying that "it would be better for Moldova to be a Romanian province than a Russian colony." "Our chances in elections are little, but we shall prepare ourselves for the next elections," said Nicu. He added that "if we obtain the majority of seats in future Parliament, the next day we leave for Bucharest where we shall decide the fate of Moldova, together with the Romanian Parliament."

Official on Unification With Romania, Ties With Moscow

AU1302214994 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1746 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 12/2/1994—"Moldova has a strategically important geo-political situation and therefore Europe and the whole world wants Moldova to be stable," states to the newspaper PAMANT SI OAMENI (LAND AND PEOPLE) Dumitru Diacov, head of the political section of the Moldovan Embassy in Russia and Moldovan Democratic Agrarian Party

[PDAM] candidate in the [27 February parliamentary] elections. Concerning the unionist options expressed on both banks of Prut [unification with Romania], Diacov says that "even though it seems a paradox, there are people against the unification in Romania itself. These are first of all young people, engineers, and intellectuals who fear to become unemployed as a consequence of the unification. He refers to a poll made in Romania in 1992, "which had surprising results." It revealed that "19 percent of the polled persons were against Moldova's unification with Romania and 35 percent said this process could take place in the future. Hence the conclusion that most Romanians do not want to unite," says Diacov. "During four years of my staying in Romania (as bureau head of the TASS news agency in Bucharest) I realized that I have there a lot of real friends. We could learn much from each other, and as to the issue of unification let our grandsons who will be less interested in the 'heritage of the past' decide," says Diacov. According to him, any attempt to revise the borders in Europe might cause danger and due to several objective causes it will remain so for a long time. Russia should not consider Moldova a region that threatens its stability; it should have a more clear attitude regarding the issues of the Dniester Republic and that of the 14th Russian Army. Moldovan diplomacy should promote a more active, clear, and better coordinated policy in its relations with Russia. Small countries should have only friends and not enemies, states Diacov.

Moscow Said To Acclaim Snegur's Antiunification Stance

AU1002122494 Bucharest COTIDIANUL in Romanian 8 Feb 94 p 8

[Irina Negrea article: "Snegur Gives Moscow Reason for Satisfaction"]

[Text] In the final period of the election campaign for parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova, the conservative, procommunist, and pro-imperial forces, which hold political and economic power in Chisinau, have intensified their attack. The recent meeting entitled "Our Home—the Republic of Moldova" fulfilled all the functions of former traditional congresses of the Communist Party by formulating "directives" and "theses" for the coming period. The anti-Romanian atmosphere of the proceedings and the anti-unification promoted by all speakers triggered lively applause in Moscow. Here is how Radio Moscow and Ostankino Television acclaimed the said congress: "The participants in the forum condemned the political forces and media opposing the state's independence and spread national feuding (...) Moldova's President Mircea Snegur delivered a profoundly substantiated speech in front of those present. The ultra-patriotic slogans supported by a number of parties and movements led to a split not only of the people of different ethnic origin, but also among the ranks of Moldovans." And at the end of the report, which apparently is not linked to what was reported before, but which actually testifies to the fact that Moscow endorses Chisinau's official stance, it is emphasized: "The same day (6 February), Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed an intergovernmental draft accord that establishes the rules and conditions for the stationing of Russian troops on the territory of Moldova." Once again this proves that Snegur's previous statements in connection with the need for the 14th Army to withdraw were false.

Even the organization of the congress (by the so-called Civic Alliance in Chisinau, a formation that was set up recently, and the Government of the Republic of Moldova) does not differ in any way from the former measures of defense and security adopted by the communists. The proceedings were attended by delegations from several countries, including from former Soviet republics; Romania was not invited. Access to the congress was very restricted. The invitations had been issued by state structures. The same procedure was also in force for most of the journalists, who, not having the authorities' approval, had to withdraw when faced by the cordons of policemen. Chisinau radio and television carried live relays of the congress, so that the citizens' indoctrination would be more effective. In practical terms, the speakers respected the electoral platform of the Agrarian Democratic Party of Moldova [PDAM] by trying, first and foremost, to slander the pro-union political forces and promoting Romania-phobia and an exaggerated, abnormal Moldovanism.

Adrian Usatai, general director of the national radio television in Moldova and leader of the Civic Alliance in Chisinau, went as far as to contest the national ideal of the country's reintegration, thus questioning—with sinister sarcasm—the supreme sacrifice accepted by Ilie Ilascu: "Mr. Ilascu, it is one thing to defend the integrity of the Republic of Moldova in Tiraspol, and another, if you state, in your cage, that Romania is your homeland. In what capacity were you there and what was the purpose of being in Tiraspol?"

Not wanting the Republic of Moldova to become "a province or domain of other countries," Dumitru Motpan, PDAM leader, supports the presidential point of view militating for an independent Republic of Moldova, eventually united with Moldavia on this side of the Prut River.

During a recent meeting with the electorate of the Cantemir Rayon, Motpan said that, after the genuine consolidation of Moldova's statehood, the PDAM "will proceed to the unification, but not with the whole of Romania, but merely with Romanian Moldavia."

Unfortunately, the agrarians are the ones who can most easily manipulate public opinion in villages, both at the 27 February 1994 elections and during the so-called sociological referendum on 6 March 1994, considering that the majority of peasants rely on the kolkhoz and sovkhoz leaders, who constantly put pressure on them due to the directives received from the "center."

CSCE Mission Head Requests Special Status for Dniester

AU1302215094 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2026 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 11/2/1994—The Moldovan Government entirely supports the CSCE mission to Moldova and creates good conditions of activity, states Slavomir Dabrova, head of the CSCE mission to Moldova in PACEA CIVICA (CIVIC PEACE.) The attitude of the Tiraspol authorities is completely different. In Tiraspol some are ready to cooperate with us in normal conditions, while other think we are spies, the quoted source states. Our mission's mandate is valid for one single state—the Republic of Moldova, recognized by the world community. Any attempt to create an artificial state within Moldova is doomed to failure, as it had not and will not have the support of world community. For the conflict's solution, the CSCE mission's recommendations suggest, on one hand, the consolidation of the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Moldova, and, on the other, the necessity to grant a special statute to the Dniester region, which would provide a series of rights for this region, said the interviewed. Dabrova referred to the peace-maker role Russia assumed, mentioning that it declares "wherever and whenever possible that it promotes peace in various conflict zones on Earth" and it "demands from international organizations, CSCE in particular, material, moral, and political support of this role it assumed." At the same time, "to provide this support we would like first to see how Russia asks for support while it provides no proof to persuade us what and how actually happens." Theoretically, Russia accepts to cooperate with the CSCE mission to Moldova, but practically hinders its cooperation with the Joint Control Commission. I believe Moldova will not stand another military conflict, but it is long until the conflict is solved. The prospects over the next years cannot be optimistic for Moldova, which, as all other states in the region, has a period of dismantling a system and searching for another, more favorable one, the quoted source notes.

Dniester Citizens Allowed To Vote Solely Outside Region

AU1302215494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1746 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Tiraspol BASAPRESS, 12/2/1994—The press service of the president and government of the so-called Dniester Republic has published a declaration on the future elections for the Moldovan Parliament. The document states that the Tiraspol government does not intend to hinder the participation of the Dniester inhabitants in the elections, but they will be able to do that "solely on the territory of the Republic of Moldova." International observers are invited to make sure that elections will not be held in the Dniester Republic. Previously, Tiraspol leaders tried to dam elections in Moldova's eastern regions, by introducing the emergency state and visa regime for entering the Dniester Republic.

Cabinet Examines Reform, Economic Issues

AU1202133594 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2044 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 10/2/1994—The session of Moldovan Government presided by Mircea Snegur was held today. The social and economic development for 1993 and the reforms were discussed during it. Sergiu Certan, minister of national economy, presented a report in which he stated that social and economic situation is "quite serious," and that it is determined by "very unfavourable internal and external factors." Although a stabilizing trend is observed in economy from June 1993, the people's living level keeps falling. Certan pointed out that from the first month of 1994, the production in many fields started to fall again under the existing political divergences. President Snegur said that industrial production decreased in January 1994 in comparison with the same period of 1993 by 20 percent. Snegur said that nevertheless "warehouses are full of goods." The president blamed the audience of inconsequence in promoting the reforms and demanded them to add to the adopted decisions facts, terms and concrete responsible people because the proposed project contains nothing but slogans.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Leaves for U.S., Comments

LD1302070594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0644 GMT 13 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Almaty, 13 Feb—Today President Nursultan Nazarbayev left for an official visit to the United States at the invitation of that country's president, Bill Clinton.

Speaking to journalists prior to his departure, Nazarbayev said this visit, his second to the United States, promises to be highly productive. He voiced the hope that the forthcoming summit talks and meetings with business circles will inject a new economic and political quality to diverse Kazakhstan-U.S. ties. Increased mutually beneficial cooperation with the United States, he said, will greatly help the republic to lift its economy.

The leader of Kazakhstan also announced that on the return journey, he will stop over in Paris at the invitation of President Francois Mitterrand. Their meeting will look at ways of developing existing agreements on bilateral cooperation.

Arrives in Washington for Talks

LD1302235294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2235 GMT 13 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS-KAZTAG correspondents Amangeldy Akhmetalimov and Igor Barsukov]

[Text] Washington, 14 Feb—Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev arrived here on Sunday afternoon on an official visit at the invitation of U.S. President Bill Clinton.

A meeting between the presidents of the United States and Kazakhstan is to take place in the White House today. Nazarbayev will also meet U.S. Vice President Albert Gore, the defense and trade secretaries, and representatives of the U.S. business community. Documents on cooperation between the two countries are to be signed. On Tuesday, the Kazakh president is scheduled to have discussions with the heads of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

After his stay in the U.S. capital, Nazarbayev is to leave for New York, where he is to have a meeting with UN Secretary General Butrus-Butrus Ghali.

Press Service Denies Nazarbayev-Yeltsin Meeting Scheduled

LD1102161794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1355 GMT 11 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Akimov and Amangaldiy Akhmetova]

[Text] Almaty, 11 Feb—The press service of the president of Kazakhstan has today denied reports appearing in the Russian media on a meeting between the Russian and Kazakhstan presidents expected in the next few days. The dates given for the meeting in the majority of reports are either before or immediately after Nazarbayev's official visit to the United States, which is scheduled for 13-17 February.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by the press service of the Kazakh president that the exact dates for the meeting of the two leaders is not yet being discussed. The meeting can take place only after the documents on which agreement was reached during the recent talks between the foreign ministers of Russia and Kazakhstan in Almaty are prepared for signing.

Kozyrev: Summit To Decide Baykonur's Future

LD1002150994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1320 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Leninsk February 10 TASS—During his official visit to Kazakhstan, which ended today, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev had talks with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev on the Baykonur cosmodrome. It was agreed to set up a special working team to study the problem. It is to draw up a draft agreement on this unique scientific complex for the Russo-Kazakh summit, scheduled for the end of March.

Kozyrev visited the Baykonur cosmodrome on the last day of his official visit. He was accompanied by Kazakh Foreign Minister Tuleutay Suleymenov.

Baykonur holds pride of place in the history of world science, especially cosmonautics. This is from where mankind had for the first time ventured into outer space, turning a new page in the history of civilisation. The world's first artificial earth satellite was orbited from Baykonur in October 1957. The first cosmonaut, Yuriy Gagarin, was launched into outer space from there in April 1961.

The first "Buran" reusable vehicle was launched from Baykonur in 1988. The international space observatory "Granat", orbited from there in December 1989, is still functioning in outer space. It is designed to carry out strategic observations and to study cosmic, roentgen and gamma rays. Russia, France, Bulgaria and Denmark are taking part in the project.

A spaceship, carrying a Soviet-Australian expedition, including a representative of Kazakhstan, was launched from Baykonur for the first time in the 40-year-long history of the space centre, on October 2, 1991. The next stage of the cosmodrome's history was marked by the launching of a Soyuz TM-13 rocket. This event ushered in a new era in the cosmodrome's history.

Kozyrev overflew the installations of the cosmodrome and talked to the heads of Baykonur's military and civilian personnels. Taking part in the talk was Colonel-General Vladimir Ivanov, commander of the Military Space Forces of the Russian Defence Ministry, Acting Chief of the Baykonur Cosmodrome Major-General Viktor Grafinin, and head of the Leninsk Administration Vitaliy Brynkin.

In accordance with a decree signed by the Kazakh president in 1991, all the enterprises, organisations and institutions on the territory of Kazakhstan were declared Kazakh state property, including the Baykonur cosmodrome. Naturally, this posed new difficult problems before the complex. It will not be an exaggeration to say that Kazakhstan is unable to cope with all the problems linked with the exploitation of this unique space complex. Suffice it to say that Russia had spent 47 billion roubles to keep Baykonur going in 1993 alone. Ninety-four per cent of all the spendings on the complex are borne by Russia and only six per cent by Kazakhstan in accordance with an agreement concluded between the two countries. As much as 259 billion roubles will be required to finance Baykonur in 1994.

During the meeting with the Russian foreign minister, Chief of the Cosmodrome Viktor Grafinin said that 22 launchings of different space vehicles, both military and civilian, were effected from Baykonur in 1992, and four in 1994, including one piloted vehicle. Dwelling on problems facing the cosmodrome today, he laid accent on two main problems—determination of the cosmodrome's status and solution of tasks linked with the social protection of its personnel.

Kozyrev flew to Moscow right after his tour of Baykonur installations.

Nazarbayev Rejects Dual Kazakh-Russian Citizenship

AU1402094194 Berlin BERLINER ZEITUNG in German 11 Feb 94 p 7

[Interview with President Nursultan Nazarbayev by Manfred Quiring; place and date not given: "Now He Is Keeping His Distance From Moscow"]

[Text] [Quiring] You reject dual citizenship. Why?

[Nazarbayev] I am afraid that this infamous dual citizenship would split our society. With a recently issued ukase I have fundamentally changed some not particularly fortunate passages of the Kazakh Law on Citizenship. I passed on to Boris Yeltsin and Viktor Chernomyrdin the draft treaty on principles associated with the acquisition of citizenship in Kazakhstan and in Russia. We should adopt laws that facilitate this.

[Quiring] On the eve of elections in Russia statements by Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev that Russia wants to protect the interests of its fellow citizens in the former Union republics caused excitement. How do you see this today, after Zhirinovskiy's election success?

[Nazarbayev] The key phrase is "on the eve of elections." An election campaign has its own laws. However, I am also quite sure that such statements have not at all reassured the Russians who live in national republics—in particular not those who never had these problems.

[Quiring] In Kazakhstan almost 50 percent of the population are Russian. What is your point of view about this fact?

[Nazarbayev] I am completely calm when I think of the act that in Kazakhstan there are 8 million Kazakhs and 5 million Russians. Some media want to see a problem where there is none. Often there is talk of migration. However, this process is unavoidable also under normal circumstances, all the more so when an empire collapses.

Kazakhstan, like Russia, is a multinational state. For many centuries Kazakhs here have lived together not only with Russians, but also with Ukrainians, Belarusians, Germans, Poles, Uigurs, Dunganes, and—since the fateful time of the Stalinist deportations—also with Koreans, Chechens, Ingushes, and Turko- Mezhets. I am convinced that there will be no ethnic conflict in Kazakhstan.

[Quiring] But emigration continues to increase?

[Nazarbayev] I am seriously worried about that. Many Germans, for instance, are leaving us. As regards the Russians, I can give you the following figures: Last year more than 200,000 left the country, not only for Russia. By 1990 80,000 to 100,000 people left our republic every year. An approximately equal number came to us. However, when listing the current migration figures, one forgets—for whatever reason—to note that last year about 160,000 Russians came to Kazakhstan.

[Quiring] Among the political personalities who brought about the end of the USSR, you are considered to be one of the most far-sighted. Most recently, you have distanced yourself from Moscow. How do you see the development of relations with Russia?

[Nazarbayev] Thank you for the compliment, but I was not invited to "seal the end." In fact, I have always advocated integration in all spheres of our life. Now, also, I am of the view that only together can we can find a way out of the crisis.

I cannot agree with the second part of your question. We are not distancing ourselves from Moscow. On the contrary, we are striving for closer contacts within the framework of the CIS. For this purpose, however, we must bring our laws closer together; we must form a common parliament and a common government, for which one could take the Consultative Coordination Committee of the CIS as a basis. We must immediately establish customs, banking, payment, and other unions, as they are envisaged in our treaty on the economic union.

[Quiring] For a long time you were one of the most active advocates of the CIS. After the collapse of the ruble zone, do you still believe that the CIS has a future?

[Nazarbayev] The introduction of an independent currency—and I have said so often—was a forced step. Right to the end we hoped to find a joint solution with Russia for the ruble problem. However, the conditions proved to be unacceptable. However, nothing bad happened for anybody. The difficulties, which are linked with the introduction of national currencies, are unavoidable in view of the temporary delineation. However, it cannot be ruled out that we can come to a common circulation of money in the future, perhaps even to the creation of a common currency, following the model of the European Union.

[Quiring] In contrast to Russia, the parliament and the local soviets in Kazakhstan have dissolved peacefully. Still, is this a rejection of parliamentary democracy?

[Nazarbayev] Not at all! Now more than ever the republic needs a professional, constantly working parliament, which is able to adopt laws of a high quality and thus to establish a reliable basis for the reforms, which we are implementing. The special powers given to the president are valid only until a new parliament is convened and apply only to issues, which are linked with the economic reform. The elections for the new parliament will be held on 7 March 1994.

Adviser Describes IZVESTIYA Story as Untrue

LD1402105694 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0700 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Excerpts] State adviser Tulegen Zhukeyev described as absolutely untrue the story: Nuclear magazines in Kazakhstan are on the brink of an accident, published by IZVESTIYA on 12 February. At a news conference it was said that: This publication is very likely to have been ordered and inspired by those who are interested in introducing additional complications into the negotiations that are likely to be started between the two states on the issues of nuclear weapons, and a search for mutually acceptable decisions on a parity basis, taking into account mutual benefits.

Zhukeyev voiced the opinion that the Russian military and industrial complex can be such a party, because it aims at enhancing its influence on the elaboration of the policy in the corridors of power of the Russian Federation and wants to take upon itself individual decision-making, though it has succeeded in this too much already. It practically has disavowed the agreement between the CIS nuclear states about mutual control over nuclear stocks, and the strategic designation troops are completely under the Russian military leadership's command. The state adviser said further: Probably, the fact that Kazakhstan has suspended the export of intercontinental ballistic missiles, which has been done entirely through Kazakhstan's own goodwill, is causing this displeasure among certain forces. [passage omitted]

Zhukeyev said: It makes us think that the Russian military and industrial complex is counting on the possibility that the world community would apply additional pressure on Kazakhstan in connection with the nuclear weapons problem. [passage omitted]

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Views Results of Referendum

LD1002225894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1415 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek, 12 Feb [date as received]—Today Askar Akayev, the president of Kyrgyzstan, addressed his compatriots. He thanked his fellow citizens who had expressed confidence in him at the nationwide referendum on 30 January. Akayev confirmed his adherence to the policy of interethnic accord and said that this policy was and will be the important priority of his state activities. The president said that he will use the political results of the referendum to strengthen all branches of power and to coordinate their activities to work efficiently for solving the most important problems of the society. The head of the state expressed the belief that the present situation in Kyrgyzstan demands firm and decisive actions, and these will follow soon. Decrees "On Urgent Measures on Strengthening State and Financial Discipline" and "On Urgent Measures on Strengthening Law and Order and Reinforcing the Fight Against Infringers of the Law," which were signed today by the president, have become the first steps in this direction.

The president said: We consider democracy, above all, as the strictest maintenance of law and public order. He said that he is confident that unity, friendship, and accord between the peoples of Kyrgyzstan will help the country to overcome difficult ordeals.

Decree on 'Urgent' Financial Measures Signed

LD1002234094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1520 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek, 10 Feb—President Askar Akayev has today signed a decree "On Urgent Measures To Strengthen State and Finance Discipline," introducing tough measures aimed at bringing Kyrgyzstan out of the economic crisis.

The document says that the republic continues sliding into the economic abyss. This is caused, among other things, by a sharp deterioration of finance, tax, and budget discipline. For example, in the fourth quarter of 1993 taxes accounted for 7.2 percent of the gross domestic product, whereas the appropriate level would have been 20 to 25 percent; in January 1994 this figure dropped to just 2.6 percent.

The president regards this situation as undermining the country's economic independence. To prevent this, he has introduced a number of measures by decree. These include creating a department of tax police, substantial fines, withdrawal of registration certificates from companies, instituting criminal proceedings against those concealing their incomes, a tenfold increase in state excise tariffs, and a 20-fold increase in tax on land and in tax on private vehicles. Under the decree, no tax or customs rebates will be granted. It orders that a single computer network listing all tax-payers be created in the country.

Declarations of all company accounts as they were on 1 January 1994 are to be submitted. The decree instructs the National Bank to exercise strict control over credits and monetary emission, introduces a limit for bank credits, and completely forbids granting hard currency credits to enterprises. The National Bank is requested to begin immediately those actions aimed at preventing insolvency, including reorganization and—if necessary—liquidation of insolvent state enterprises.

Edict 'To Strengthen Law and Order' Issued

LD1102104294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1632 GMT 10 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek, 10 Feb—Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev today issued an edict "On Urgent Measures to Strengthen Law and Order and to Step Up the Struggle Against Violations of the Law". The document describes the state of law and order in the republic as critical. The main reasons for this, as spelled out in the text of the edict, "are the worsening socioeconomic and political situation, a fall in people's living standards, a lowering of public morals, and the legal nihilism that has gripped society and the power structures".

The president believes that the problem is so acute that it must be made a priority, a nationwide task upon which the stabilization of the situation and the fate of economic reforms in the country is depending. The edict instructs the government to work out before 1 April a state program on the strengthening of public order. Power ministries must organize the patrolling of urban streets and residential areas. To achieve this, it is being proposed that the general public be drawn into this process and that material incentives for this work be introduced.

At the same time, measures are being stepped up in the procedure for checking passports. The document provides the media with the opportunity to inform the population about how the state's anti-crime program is proceeding.

'Text' of Edict on Security Council Membership Reported

LD1102134394 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 0000 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] This is the text of the edict of the president of the Kyrgyz republic: On the Membership of the Security Council Attached to the President of the Kyrgyz Republic.

In conformity with the edict of the president of the Kyrgyz Republic of 2 February 1994 on the Security Council under the president of the Kyrgyz Republic, I decree:

1. To confirm the membership of the Security Council attached to the president of the Kyrgyz Republic as follows: Prime Minister Dzhumagulov; Rustembekov, state secretary under the president and head of the president's administration; Fisher, deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic on Emergency Situations and Civil Defense; Internal Affairs Minister Sutalinov; Defense Minister Subanov; Bakayev, chairman of the State Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic for National Security; and National Guard Commander Chotbayev.

2. To hold as no longer valid the decree of the president of the Kyrgyz Republic of 5 August 1993 on the formation of the headquarters under the commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Kyrgyz Republic.

[Signed] Askar Akayev, president of the Kyrgyz Republic

Tajikistan

Opposition 'Guerrillas' Attack Russian Border Guards

LD1202180894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] A group of Tajik opposition guerrillas on Friday [11 February] evening assaulted a detail of Russian guards on the section of the Tajik- Afghan border controlled by Post No. 3 of the Pyandzh Border Guard Detachment.

A source in the press bureau of the Russian Border Guard told INTERFAX the detail and a reinforcement that had arrived from the post beat off the assault, one Russian serviceman being wounded.

The same day, another clash occurred on the same section of the border, the Tajik militants retreating and dispersing in rush thickets on the bank of the Pyandzh River.

The press bureau reported that Tajik guerrillas on Friday launched four attacks, using small arms, rocket missiles and grenade projectors, on Russian squads guarding the strip of the border controlled by post No. 12 of the Moskovskiy Border Guard Detachment. The Russians suppressed all the firing points of the guerrillas, the bureau said. It said none of the Russian servicemen were hurt, the guerrillas' losses being so far unknown.

Border Guards Repel Attack

LD1202161594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1527 GMT 12 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow February 12 TASS—The 3rd border post of the Pyanj border unit was attacked by a group of militants on February 11. The border detail and reinforcement defeated the enemy. A border guard was wounded, sources at the Russian border troops' press service told ITAR-TASS here today.

Another fight was reported upon the reinforcement's return to the border post. The attackers were put under fire and defeated. The border section is now under full control.

The 12th border post of the Moscow border unit was repeatedly shelled from the rear on the same day. The militants used fire arms, rockets and grenade launchers. All fire nests of the attackers were suppressed. The losses of militants are being specified. There are no casualties amongst border guards.

Russian Helicopter Crashes; 'Considerable Human Losses'

LD1302182894 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1600 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] A MI-8 helicopter belonging to a Russian border troops unit had an accident at about 1300 Moscow time [1000 GMT] while carrying out a medical flight in the region of the settlement (?Shurabad) in Tajikistan. There are considerable human losses. A commission has been set up under the deputy commander in chief of border troops to investigate the causes of the accident. That was a report from a Mayak correspondent.

New Prime Minister Concerned About Economy, Crime

MK1102133094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Feb 94 p 3

[Report by Oleg Panfilov in the "Tajikistan" column]

[Text] A resolution by the Tajikistan Supreme Soviet Presidium has changed the structure of the government, which now includes 23 ministries and three committees. The number of deputy heads of government has been cut from eight to five. In his first weeks in office new Prime Minister Abdudzhalil Samadov appealed to his countrymen to "submit constructive proposals" on improving the operation of the national economy, at the same time apologizing that he cannot respond to each letter from citizens.

The new prime minister's concern is understandable: The economy has been brought to a critical point. Since last October, Uzbeksgaztrans has reduced gas deliveries to Tajikistan by 70 percent, and in particular the Dushanbe thermal power station has had to operate at only 30 percent of capacity. As a result, trees began to be cut in Dushanbe in late fall, just like in Yerevan some time in the past. As the economic crisis mounted, the flow of Russian-speakers from the country increased. And although the Tajik press still writes that the cause is the language law adopted a few years ago, in fact the true reason lies in increased confrontation by armed groupings inside the "winners'" camp. The uncontrolled movement of arms; more than a thousand criminals at large, released by People's Front gunmen from the Kurgan Tyube prison in summer 1992; and finally, the makeup of the Internal Affairs Ministry, including officers with a criminal record—these are the reasons which will hardly be conducive to improving the situation. And although writing in VECHERNIY DUSHANBE, city prosecutor Salomiddin Sharopov suggested that crime has fallen, he could not hide the fact that the number of serious offenses in Dushanbe has increased by 19.3 percent, including murders, 2.2 times, and robberies, by 31.9 percent.

Nonetheless, the Supreme Soviet Presidium decided not to dismiss power ministry chiefs for failing their duties, but quite the contrary upgraded the level of the state security committee to a ministry. It seems that this will have only marginal effect because the political and economic crisis will hardly allow the law enforcement bodies, "diluted" with former racketeers, to make the population more secure. Tajik security officers more or less show their worth only on the border, but even then with heavy losses.

Rakhmanov Sends Message to Iranian President

LD1102112794 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0500 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Today is the 15th anniversary of the independence of the Islamic Republic of Iran. On this occasion, Tajik Supreme Council Chairman Imamali Rakhmanov has sent a message of congratulations addressed to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The message says:

With extreme pleasure, on behalf of the people of Tajikistan, I congratulate you and the friendly and fraternal people of Iran on the occasion of the national day of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I am confident that the deep-rooted relations between the peoples of Iran and Tajikistan—which are based on common historical, cultural, and spiritual links—will be expanded further, on a new level of interest by the two countries.

Taking this opportunity, I pray to almighty God for [words indistinct] health, and prosperity and wish success to the fraternal people of Iran.

Armenia

Planes Enter Armenia From Iran, Bomb Positions

NC1102182994 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 2000 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] An war plane with unidentified markings violated the Armenian Republic's airspace over its southern border at 1130 today and flew at great height toward Kapanskiy Rayon. The invading airplane dropped two cluster bombs near the defensive positions around Yegvard in the rayon. Unfortunately, the foggy weather prevented determining from which country the airplane came.

The Armenian Defense Ministry press service reported that it is assumed that it took off from the Iranian border.

Armenia's air-defense forces have taken relevant measures. Data on the fate of the warplane are being determined.

The same source reported that two SU-25 war planes, this time certainly from Iranian territory, invaded Megrinskiy Rayon and dropped two cluster bombs on the railway station at 1540.

They later flew toward Kapanskiy Rayon and dropped two more cluster bombs on the borders. The two aircraft then flew toward Iran.

Data on the consequences of the bombing are being determined.

Taking into consideration that the war planes appeared from the territory of a neutral country, Armenia's air-defense forces did not take counter-measures.

The aforesaid violations were also registered by the Russian border troops stationed in Armenia, and the Armenian Armed Forces command was informed about it.

President Continues Visit to Britain

Discusses Regional Issues

PM1102144894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Feb 94 p 6

[Report on interview with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan by Amir Taheri in London on 10 February]

[Text] The Armenian president said yesterday that there are more than 2,000 "Afghan" fighters from various states in Azerbaijan taking part in the war around Nagorno-Karabakh.

In a press interview the Armenian president claimed that 500 Turkish officers and some 1,000 officers and noncommissioned officers from the former Soviet republics are currently training the new Azerbaijani Army, which has recently achieved some success in the war, which has been going on for six years.

Levon Ter-Petrosyan says that he has received assurances from London that there are no British "mercenaries" with the Azerbaijan Armed Forces. There have been reports that Western oil companies which have interests in Azerbaijan are recruiting Britons to help the Baku government recover the land it has lost to the Armenians.

According to Western sources, the Armenians are occupying about 20 percent of Azerbaijan's territory. Nearly 1 million Azerbaijanis, that is one-sixth of the country's population, have been driven out of their cities and villages. Many of them are refugees on the border with Iran.

Ter-Petrosyan said that the West and Russia must work together to end the conflict before it expands to include the entire region.

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan concludes a four-day visit to Britain today. At a working breakfast yesterday the president answered questions put to him by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT:

[Taheri] What is the aim of your visit to London?

[Ter-Petrosyan] The main aim of my visit is to ask British Prime Minister John Major to raise the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh during his upcoming visit to Moscow. He has agreed to renew peace endeavors.

[Taheri] What exactly do you want to see happen in Nagorno-Karabakh?

[Ter-Petrosyan] The ideal formula is for the people of Nagorno-Karabakh to obtain their right to self-determination. However, I am aware that the ideal formula cannot always be achieved. This is why we are looking for a compromise formula to end the war. We proposed that this aim be attained in three stages: First, a cease-fire. Second, consolidating the legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh through international arbitration, and that should be done in a manner that does not allow Azerbaijan to revoke or reverse the decision. And finally, lifting the blockade Azerbaijan is imposing on Armenia so as to coincide with the Armenian forces' withdrawal from the Azerbaijani territory it is currently occupying.

[Taheri] You maintain that your government is not interfering in the Nagorno-Karabakh war. In what circumstances will you intervene?

[Ter-Petrosyan] An all-out war will take place if the Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh are exposed to the danger of mass deportation or mass murder.

[Taheri] Is that likely to happen?

[Ter-Petrosyan] I hope not. But we have behind us a stormy and harsh history and we must always be on our guard.

[Taheri] Did you expect the current state of war and the terrible suffering inflicted on all parties when you set up the "Nagorno-Karabakh Committee" some six years ago?

[Ter-Petrosyan] Looking back from today's position often sheds a different light on historic events. However, let me tell you that we did not invent the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. It has existed since Stalin decided to offer it as a gift to Azerbaijan in 1921. The situation was going to explode there whether or not Armenia made a move.

[Taheri] It seems that you want a special role for Russia in the region. Does that mean the effective return of "big brother" to the field?

[Ter-Petrosyan] Yes. I must say that I understand that. There are Russian forces in all the former Soviet republics except Azerbaijan, Ukraine, and Belarus. Russia will return because it can see that other players are trying to control its zones of influence.

[Taheri) What do you mean by "other players?"

[Ter-Petrosyan] NATO forces, and regionally Turkey and Iran.

[Taheri] How would you assess these players' role?

[Ter-Petrosyan] The United States accepts Russia playing a peacekeeping role—which is important. But Turkey and Iran have not achieved what they had hoped to achieve years ago, for example.

[Taheri] What about your relationship with Iran and Turkey?

[Ter-Petrosyan] Iran is a friendly state and a close partner. I am confident that that our relationship will deepen further. Iran has been neutral in the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, even though its public opinion naturally sympathizes with their Shiite Muslims in Azerbaijan. The West sees Iran as a state exporting fundamentalism. But it is in our region. Although it is an Islamic republic, it does not side with the Azerbaijani Shiites, whereas Turkey— the secular government—is 100 percent behind Azerbaijan. We want normal relations with Turkey, because it is our neighbor. But Turkish leaders—so it seems—cannot act against the feelings aroused against us by the media services and other pressure groups there. Nevertheless, we will not give up hope. We wish to establish normal relations, regardless of the harsh past.

[Taheri] You dealt with several Azerbaijani presidents, including Ayaz Mutalibov, Geydar Aliyev, and Abdulfaz Elchibey. What is your opinion of these men?

[Ter-Petrosyan] We had positive dealings with Mutalibov, but he was overthrown. Elchibey was the best one for us, because he angered both Iran and Russia, thus imposing isolation on himself. He naively played the Turkish nationalism card. Aliyev is the more intelligent and experienced. And he is trying to repair relations between Iran and Russia.

[Taheri] What is the role of oil in this conflict?

[Ter-Petrosyan] Azerbaijan has oil, and we get nothing from it. The West and Russia are interested in Azerbaijan's oil—which is understood. But utilizing oil sources requires securing peaceful conditions first. Which is why everyone is seeking to end the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh.

[Taheri] You are subject to an Azerbaijani blockade. Where do you obtain vital supplies from?

[Ter-Petrosyan] Through Iran and Georgia by land and air. Of course, what we get is not sufficient, and our economy is suffering as a result of this situation. The blockade has prevented us from rebuilding what the earthquakes destroyed in cities and villages and putting the wheel of industry on the right track again. Our people are suffering a great deal. This reality is being exploited by former communists and other enemies of democracy.

[Taheri] I sense from your statements that you are pessimistic. Are we to understand that economic difficulties are compelling you to take a reconciliatory position on Nagorno-Karabakh?

[Ter-Petrosyan] We have economic difficulties, but I am not broke. As for the reconciliatory position, we agreed on the framework set by the peace agreement in Minsk, and we insist on its speedy implementation. Our region needs peace more than anything else today. Everyone in our region wants peace.

[Taheri] A personal question: You and Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev are the only presidents in the former Soviet republics who have never been affiliated to the Comminist Party. Do you feel lonely and isolated at present?

[Ter-Petrosyan] Even Akayev was a member of the Communist Party, but he was not among the high cadre. So I am really lonely. But all the people of Armenia support me.

Views Results of Visit

LD1202100294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0830 GMT 12 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Voronkov]

[Text] London February 12 TASS—General principles for cooperation between the two countries are now being established. They found their manifestation in the signed declaration on basic principles for inter-state relations and in a number of other agreements, President Levon

Ter-Petrosyan of Armenia told ITAR-TASS, summing up the results of his first official visit to Britain.

The Armenian president described it as very important that during the talks with Prime Minister John Major he received assurances about future support for Armenia in international financial organisations.

Problems concerning a settlement of the Karabakh conflict and Britain's relations with Azerbaijan were discussed during the meetings. London is interested in Azerbaijani oil. Therefore, one of the aims of the visit was to secure that this economic aspect of the problem has no negative political consequences for Armenia and that the British Government pursues a balanced policy promoting the establishment of peace, Ter-Petrosyan emphasised. Such promises were received. Moreover, Britain intends to make more active efforts in the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process in the near future, he added.

In this connection, British representatives were provided with detailed information about actions being undertaken within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and about Russia's proposals aimed at solving the Karabakh problem.

The Armenian president confirmed that Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh supported the International Olympic Committee's proposal to declare an "Olympic truce" in the area of Azerbaijan-Karabakh confrontation for the period of the 1994 Winter Olympics without any pre-conditions.

Returns to Armenia

NC1202192794 Yerevan SNARK in English 1122 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Yerevan, February 12 (SNARK)—Today the Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan has returned to Yerevan from London. During the four-day official visit of the Armenian delegation to Great Britain the agreements of friendship and collaboration, of cooperation in the field of air communications, science, education and culture were signed.

They also achieved the agreement with the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development about assistance in the restoration the work of the Armenian Nuclear Power Station and reconstruction of Yerevan airport "Zvartnots."

Pipeline Explosion Leaves Republic Without Gas

LD1102192894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1550 GMT 11 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 11 Feb—Armenia has been left completely without gas once again. Late on the night of 10 February, the only pipeline still supplying gas to the republic, which crosses the Georgian territory, was blown up once again. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the press service of the Armenian Government that the subversive act was committed at 2330 hours on 10 February near the river Khrami in Marneulskiy Rayon in the southeast of Georgia. A group of Armenian gas workers have been sent to the site to examine and repair the damaged section of the pipeline, the government said.

Gas supply to Armenia via Georgia had been cut off on the previous day. According to the Gruzgazprom association, this was caused by a drop in gas supply from Turkmenistan. The Armenian side says that at that point, Georgia was receiving 9-10 million cubic meters of gas a day, while Armenia had been receiving 0.8 to 1.2 million cubic meters a day for the past two months. This tiny amount was just enough to satisfy the bare minimum of the needs of the Armenian economy, and first and foremost, vital facilities, such as hospitals, bakeries, transport, communications, and administrative offices.

Since yesterday noon, Yerevan residents have not had any electricity; in the afternoon, the subway was stopped. Domestic heating and hot water are unavailable. Despite the critical situation, 60 industrial enterprises have been working in Armenia today, and trams have been in operation in Yerevan. Buses have been standing idle in the Armenian capital due to lack of fuel.

Azerbaijan

Defense Ministry Agrees to Conditional Cease-Fire

LD1102173394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1133 GMT 11 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku, 11 Feb—Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry has today supported the suggestion of the International Olympics Committee that a cease-fire be introduced for the duration of the 1994 Winter Olympics. A statement circulated today says that "this step can have a positive effect on removing the tension and resolving the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict around Nagorno-Karabakh."

The document says that Azerbaijan's Armed Forces are ready to stop fighting along the entire length of the front line if Armenia withdraws its troops from the territories it has seized.

Karabakh Recaptures Strategic Areas

LD1302144594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1321 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] The press service of the headquarters of Nagorno-Karabakh's Defence Army has confirmed to Interfax that military actions in Kelbadjar District were stepped up. According to the headquarters, as a result of successful counter-offensives conducted in the north of the district on Saturday and Sunday morning Karabakh army units managed to recapture several strategically important heights.

Their trophies included two armored vehicles, a tank and a personnel carrier. There are no reports on casualties.

As the press service said, Sunday morning the Azeri troops launched an offensive in the Fizuli-Martuni direction at the south-eastern sector of the Karabakh front. At 12:00 on Sunday military actions in that direction continued.

Armenia Intensifies Shelling Despite Olympic Plea

LD1402112494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1113 GMT 14 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Adullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku February 14 TASS—Contrary to assurances about readiness to stop hostilities for the period of the 1994 Winter Olympics, Armenian armed units operating in the conflict zone intensified shelling today, as well as attacks on positions of the Azeri Army at the Kelbadzhar, Terter and Fizuli sections. A report of the republican Defence Ministry, circulated today immediately after 12.00, says that the attacks were repulsed, and the enemy sustained heavy losses in manpower and materiel.

The Defence Ministry reported the activisation of Armenian sharp-shooters on the frontline. They fired at a filming group of the Azeri TV, injuring Adil Nasirov, a TV journalist, and destroying video cameras.

Aliyev Gives News Conference in Istanbul

LD1102224694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2033 GMT 11 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Feoktistov]

[Text] Ankara February 11 TASS—Armenia should leave Azeri lands without any conditions, Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev told a press conference in Istanbul on Friday.

The Azerbaijani leader said that "some states and groups" render a material and moral support to Armenia. "This makes the fight to liberate our territory tougher," Aliyev stressed. "Azerbaijan seeks to resolve the problem by peaceful means, but Armenia wants to resolve it by force and bring Azerbaijan to the knees," the Azerbaijani president noted.

Azerbaijan did not request Turkey to render military assistance. The two sides agreed about "supplies of wheat and granting of credits, as well as capital investments in the economy of Azerbaijan," Aliyev emphasised said.

The Azerbaijani leader noted that Azerbaijan itself will resolve military questions, but would like to "take advantage of prestigious military academies in Turkey to train experienced officers for the Azeri Army." The president said that his visit to Turkey was "very useful" from the point of view of the development of "friendly and fraternal relations" with the Turkish Republic.

Geydar Aliyev is expected to leave Turkey on Friday.

Aliyev's Visit to Turkey Viewed

NC1102211894 Baku Radio Baku International Service in Azeri 1300 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] President Aliyev's official visit to Turkey ended on 11 February. He has met with Deniz Baykal, leader of the Republican People's Party. Baykal said: We are closely following the important developments in the social and political fields in Azerbaijan. We have approved all the steps you have taken to consolidate your independence.

President Aliyev pointed to the mutually beneficial relations between the two friendly countries and explained in detail Armenia's occupationist war against Azerbaijan. He said: Our people are fighting to give a deserving reply to the enemy.

Professor Ihsan Dogramaci, chairman of the Bilkent University Executive Committee who is a great friend of our people, invited President Aliyev and his delegation to his house. Dogramaci outlined the friendly and fraternal relations between the two countries' peoples. On his part, President Aliyev thanked him and said that Ihsan Dogramaci, who has devoted his entire life to the improvement of the educational system, is also respected in Azerbaijan. Aliyev also noted the importance of the effort to strengthen the friendly and fraternal relations between the two peoples and explained in detail the current social and political work in Azerbaijan and the progress of the war.

President Aliyev visited the Turkish Grand National Assembly [TGNA]. He held talks with Speaker of the National Assembly Husamettin Cindoruk. On behalf of Azerbaijan, he presented an exquisite carpet to the Turkish parliament. He attended the TGNA session after his meeting with Cindoruk and addressed the Turkish parliament. His speech was warmly applauded by the Turkish deputies.

A ceremony was held in the Turkish president's residence for the signing of agreements between the two countries. President Suleyman Demirel and President Aliyev addressed the ceremony. They highly assessed the agreements between the two friendly and fraternal countries and said that they will play an important role on the effort made to further strengthen and deepen the relations between Azerbaijan and Turkey.

President Aliyev and President Suleyman Demirel signed an agreement for friendship, mutual solidarity, and multifaceted cooperation between the two countries.

The foreign ministers of the two countries signed several important documents. Agreements were concluded on mutual cooperation between Azerbaijan and Turkey in the economic, health, financial, educational, and cultural fields. Agreements were also concluded on customs and matters related to other domains. In toto, 16 documents were signed.

President Aliyev held talks with the foreign ambassadors and diplomatic representatives in Turkey. He explained in detail the situation in Azerbaijan and the Republic's foreign policy. He said: We uphold the principle of establishing mutually beneficial relations with all countries on the basis of equality. So, we maintain our foreign policy in that direction. Azerbaijan is a member of the UN organization and the CSCE, which are the most influential organizations in the world. We are trying to establish relations with all the international organizations as much as possible. Azerbaijan is a recognized independent country in the world. Our republic is making an effort to strengthen its relations with all the countries in the world. Meanwhile, it focuses particular attention on cooperation with its neighbors. We attach great importance to the further improvement of our relations with Turkey because the peoples of the two countries have been bound by a common history for many centuries.

President Aliyev outlined in detail the war in Azerbaijan and the problems of more than one million very miserable people who have become refugees in their own homeland as a result of Armenia's aggression, and explained the true nature of the Karabakh dispute, which was artificially created. He also explained Azerbaijan's effort to end the war through talks, the mediation effort of international organizations, and the peace initiatives made by several influential countries in the world. He reiterated that Azerbaijan does not wish to fight a war and stressed: Azerbaijan's people have arisen to struggle to liberate their territory from the aggressor, which has disregarded the resolutions adopted by international organizations and the mediation effort made by several countries.

President Aliyev also outlined the democratic developments in Azerbaijan.

Further Reportage on Turkey Visit

WA1402163493

For Turkish reportage on the visit to Turkey by President Geydar Aliyev see the Turkey section of the 11 February WEST EUROPE Daily Report and subsequent issues.

Officials Deny Imposition of Secret Censorship

MK1102120094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 11 Feb 94 p 4

[Mekhman Gafarly report under the "Azerbaijan" rubric: "Cabinet of Ministers Denies Secret Censorship Has Been Imposed. The Question, However, Has Nevertheless Been Discussed in the Corridors of Power"]

[Text] The other day POSTFACTUM distributed a report that staffers of the Azerbaijan Cabinet of Ministers have been prohibited, in violation of the republic's current legislation, from giving information to the independent mass media. The news agency's correspondent, citing reliable sources, said that the decision was made 7 February at a government meeting chaired by Vagif Nagiyev, Cabinet of Ministers chief of staff. All staffers were given an instruction prohibiting direct contacts with the press. Only the Azerbaijan Cabinet of Ministers press service was allowed to deal with independent journalists.

Your SEGODNYA correspondent asked Kyamal Katibli, chief of the Cabinet of Ministers press service, to comment on the report. Mr. Katibli said in a telephone conversation that the matter had never been discussed at any level and that the press reports did not square with reality. "No one has barred members of the Cabinet of Ministers from contacting the mass media," Mr. Katibli said.

Meanwhile, your SEGODNYA correspondent has learned that the problem was in fact discussed unofficially in Azerbaijani corridors of power. Government members were recommended not to disclose information anonymously. A person speaking to journalists should introduce himself and bear responsibility for his words. Seeing that no government members would dare make any sensational statements for the press given the difficult sociopolitical situation in the republic, POSTFACTUM's report should not be seen as false. It has simply not been fully clarified.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Accepts Defense Minister's Resignation

LD1102151394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Today Eduard Shevardnadze accepted the resignation of Georgian Defense Minister Georgiy Karkarashvili.

It was reported by IPRINDA agency correspondent Nikolay Mumashvili that Shevardnaze himself will temporarily assume the duties of head of the military department.

Becomes Acting Defense Minister

LD1102204694 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1900 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] We present yet another edict by the Georgian head of state.

Taking into consideration the fact that due to the current situation in the country it has become necessary to take urgent measures to speed up the process of forming a national army, increasing its fighting efficiency and creating a military doctrine. I have decided to agree to a request made by the collegium of the Georgian Defense Ministry, and as a commander in chief of the armed forces of the Republic of Georgia I will temporarily carry out the duties of Georgian defense minister.

All armed formations of the state will be subordinate directly to the commander in chief of the armed forces.

[Signed] Eduard Shevardnadze

Aide Defends Shevardnadze Role

LD1402[illegible]0094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1708 GMT 14 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow February 14 TASS—There is nothing strange that Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze has decided to take over as the republic's defence minister. He has long been the supreme commander-in-chief, Shevardnadze's aide Teimuraz Stepanov, who is currently in Moscow, told ITAR-TASS on Monday.

Stepanov believes that Shevardnadze has made this decision in order not to create new tension in society. Perhaps in conditions of instability this is the only correct decision, the aide added.

Receives Prospective Ministers

LD1402155694 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1100 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 14 Feb—IBERIA reports that Georgian head of state E. Shevardnadze, regards Major General Joni Pirtskhalaishvili as one of the candidates for the post of defense minister. He was appointed Georgia's defense minister in Gamsakhurdia's government.

E. Shevardnadze has recently invited J. Pirtskhalaishvili from Russia and had a private conversation with him.

A second candidate for the post of defense minister is Maj-Gen V. Nadibaidze, currently first deputy commander in chief of the Russian troops in the Transcaucasus.

Shevardnadze Briefs Parliament on Russian Talks

LD1002201994 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Russian 1608 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] The Georgian head of state, Eduard Shevardnadze, made a speech at the session of the Georgian parliament today. He spoke briefly about the results of the recent Russo-Georgian talks, emphasizing that the signing of the bilateral comprehensive agreement was the most important occasion in the history of new Georgia. The head of state said that this had put an end to the political and economic isolation of the republic and initiated a legal basis in the relations between the two states.

In Eduard Shevardnadze's view, the unsettled political and economic state of Georgia has a very adverse effect upon the country. A deep paralysis covers all spheres of economy in Georgia. Eduard Shevardnadze emphasized that the escalation of confrontation between Russia and Georgia has a profound effect on the issue of Abkhazia and the situation in Samachablo [South Ossetia], thus making the problem of the settlement of conflicts in the autonomous regions of the country more difficult. It also impedes an important process of the creation of the national army.

Eduard Shevardnadze expressed the view that Georgia's membership in the CIS became the first step toward the Russo-Georgian treaty being signed then in Tbilisi and serving interests of the two countries.

The chairman of the Georgian parliament drew the parliament's attention to the fact that Russia, in making economic commitments, would allow the republic to catch its breath, and that this really is very important.

The head of state expressed the thought that it is very important that the two countries agree to have a contingent of Russian frontier forces guard the border [with Turkey] until professional Georgian cadres are trained. Otherwise, Georgia's borders will be unprotected.

Mr. Shevardnadze said that arms required for the Georgian armed forces and interior troops would be received through Russian channels. As for the settlement of the Abkhazian conflict, Russia will have a decisive role in this issue, whatever resolutions the UN Security Council will have passed.

Speaking of military cooperation between Russia and Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze said that this is a matter of strategic alliance of the two countries linked historically and in many other ways.

The Georgian leader appealed to the deputies to take a realistic approach to the existing situation and to make an unbiased assessment of the possibilities of alternative variants when making a decision on any issue.

When answering questions asked by members of parliament, the head of state requested that they demonstrate better manners and proper reciprocal respect when working at the highest legislative body of the country.

Says Russian Help Vital in Crisis

LD1002161094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1431 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, addressing the parliament session in Tbilisi Thursday, has said that without restoring economic relations with Russia the republic will be unable to pull out of the crisis. There is no alternative to relations with Russia and this refers to all spheres: social, cultural, economic, military and others, he said. The parliament session discussed measures to stabilize the coupon (monetary unit) of the Georgian National Bank and the situation in the Ghali Region of Abkhazia.

Commenting on the signing of the Russian-Georgian agreements during the recent visit to Tbilisi by Russian President Yeltsin, Shevardnadze said that this had created the legal basis for equal relations between the two countries. Of special importance for Georgia, he said, is the package of economic agreements. Shevardnadze has said that it is necessary now to do everything so that the two countries' parliaments to ratify the signed agreements.

Speaking about the situation in the Ghali Region of Abkhazia, the Georgian leader described the actions by the Abkhazian armed units as another fascist sortie. There is only one way out, he said. It is to settle the conflict politically. This could be achieved, he said, if UN peacekeeping forces or Russian troops are deployed in the zone of conflict.

Discusses Yeltsin Visit

LD1002200494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1725 GMT 10 Feb 94

[From the "Details" program]

[Text] [Svanidze] "Details" is in Georgia following in the steps of the Russian president's visit to Georgia. Good day to you.

Previously Georgia was associated with the sea, fruit and loving brunettes. Now life is tough in this country. Average wages amount to approximately 3-4,000 rubles a month. Prices are almost the same as those in Moscow. People do not venture into the streets after 1900. Lord knows how they manage to live here. Nobody has given us a clear answer to this. Georgia is actually standing on the edge of the precipice, and that is why the people were expecting a miracle to happen after President Yeltsin's visit. A person writing to a local newspaper said that he was waiting for Yeltsin's visit more than for one from his own mother.

[Video cuts to show Svanidze interviewing Eduard Shevardnadze in a room]

[Svanidze] Georgia is in a very difficult situation. President Yeltsin paid a visit to Georgia. A whole package of documents was signed. What will change now if something is expected to change?

[Shevardnadze] A lot will change for the better if we really get down to implementing all that was discussed and signed, and if this process is not dragged out.

[Svanadze] The living standards are far higher in Russia compared with those in Georgia. So, was the aim to tie up with Russia?

[Shevardnadze] The matter was about restoring the economic ties between enterprises, towns and regions that had been set up during many decades and the two past centuries. I think that the breaching of those ties was an anomaly. There was that naive approach toward this matter.

[Svanadze] Did you always think like this?

[Shevarnadze] I always thought like this.

[Svanadze] What is your attitude toward the expansion of the ruble zone into Georgia?

[Shevardnadze] This issue has not yet been examined. We are having extensive debate on this issue. First, I am not sure that Russia will simply open the door and that tomorrow we will find ourselves in the ruble zone.

[Svanadze] Would you like this to happen?

[Shevardnadze] One will have to think about that. If we strive to achieve, and achieve the revival of economic life—this should be virtually achieved in matter of several months—then there will be a better picture on whether the national currency has any prospects. Naturally, the present financial situation is deplorable; this was inevitable.

[Svanidze] What made Boris Yeltsin sign the treaty with Georgia at this particular moment?

[Shevardnadze] In connection with the Georgian-Ossetian and the Georgian-Abkhazian conflicts, some of the Russian leaders thought it was necessary to retain this lever for exerting pressure on the Georgian leadership. They meant that this is in Georgia's interest, while Russia could live without a treaty. We have lost a great deal by not signing it earlier. I am convinced that if a year ago we had signed a large-scale treaty, a major agreement, and all the documents on military cooperation we have signed now, perhaps it would have been possible to avert the Abkhazian tragedy.

[Svanidze] I know that when Sukhumi was virtually on the brink of capitulation, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev proposed that you introduce a considerable contingent of Russian troops—up to two divisions, as far as I know—in order to help you to take the situation in control. You refused then. Now, under the present treaty, you are in fact agreeing to more than just that. Do you think you then made a mistake?

[Shevardnadze] Yes, that's true, the question then was whether we would manage to defend Sukhumi, because considerable forces were advancing, including not only Abkhazians, but mercenaries as well. At the time I did not act with sufficient firmness of principle and courage. There were my young colleagues at my side and I was told that if this happened—I mean if the two divisions were brought in—they would resign. If this demonstrative resignation had taken place, it would have had a very negative effect on the then situation in Georgia.

Therefore, I started looking for some compromise solutions, but Pavel Sergeyevich Grachev found them unacceptable. Several days later the situation became aggravated. I think this was a miscalculation on my part. I should have done it, although the Georgian people were not ready for this, so to speak.

[Svanidze] Are they ready for it now?

[Shevardnadze] I think that if one takes the whole complex of agreements, which had already been signed, the majority of people approve of them. Approximately 70 percent of the population now support my line, as it were, as far as this matter is concerned.

[Svanidze] During his meeting with you, President Yeltsin spoke not just about establishing friendly relations between Russia and Georgia but also about becoming allies. What does it imply for Russia and Georgia? It means the construction of a network of military bases on the territory of Georgia. Officially, they are talking about three bases, but as far as I know they are talking, in fact, about the creation of seven military bases. This would mean that—bearing in mind the difference in population and might of the two countries—Georgia becomes Russia's outpost in the Caucasus, and if one were to call things by their own names these relations will acquire a vassal nature. Are you happy with this scenario? Don't you think that this treaty is a diplomatic defeat for Georgia?

[Shevardnadze] As for the military bases—and you are saying there might be up to seven—we have them in approximately three locations. They already exist. We really ought to be talking about the duration of the stay of the Russian Army in Georgia. There is a division stationed in Batumi. There is another division stationed in Akhalkalaki. There are also military units near Tbilisi and in some of the Tbilisi districts. There is a Russian battalion in Sukhumi and there is another one in Gudauta. So if one looks at the present state of things they will not really change much. Our relations are being put on a civilized footing.

[Svanidze] Incidentally, you have just counted five locations.

[Shevardnadze] Uh?

[Svanidze] You have just counted five locations.

[Shevardnadze] No, I do not think that you can count Sukhumi and Gudauta as bases. There are units which are stationed there temporarily. They can be moved to Batumi, or if we do not agree to it...[pauses] But we are more likely than not to agree because their future presence here is simply necessary. Let us see if there are other options. Where Georgia's interests lie, so to speak? Just now we have looked into Russia's interests. Yes, naturally, Russia is interested in having its armed forces here in Georgia, in the Transcaucasian region. It is interested in this—again, for the sake of stability in the southern part of the country, a large part of it—and the question, as you know, is not that simple. And Georgia? I have already spoken about stability in general. How Georgia will build its own army if there is no proper support from Russia.

[Svanidze] Speaking about this treaty: In the view of the conditions put forward initially, who gets the best deal as a result—Russia or Georgia?

[Shevardnadze] I think that so far Russia has got more out of it. But in the long term I think Georgia will get what is due to it.

[Svanidze] Is it true that you have on several occasions suggested to Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin that you will be prepared to resign from the post of head of the Georgian state in the interests of improving relations between Russia and Georgia?

[Shevardnadze] I have always said and will say it again—I am ready to do so. If Russia is not unequivocally happy with Shevardnadze as a political figure, and if, as is in some circles, he is even viewed with hostility—I am prepared to leave. I have tried to do this before. Unfortunately, I did not succeed.

[Svanidze] Am I to understand then that the question of whether you remain head of the Georgian state is mainly determined by Yeltsin?

[Shevardnadze] No, that is not so. It is not Yeltsin who decides this, but I am prepared, all the same. If Russia believes that Shevardnadze can be an impediment to the development of normal, good and neighborly relations between the two states, I am prepared to leave. Even now, right after this conversation is over.

Interior Ministry Commander Seeks Russian Help

NC1402142094 Yerevan SNARK in English 1040 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Tbilisi, February 12 (SNARK)—"The agreement on collaboration signed in Tbilisi by Boris Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze puts a great responsibility on the interior troops of Georgia. I am convinced that the stabilization of the internal political situation in our country will promote the ratification of the Russian-Georgian agreement in State Duma", Vladimir Chikovani, commander of Georgian Interior Ministry's troops has told today SNARK in his exclusive interview.

"I hope very much that consultations and experience exchange with our Russian colleagues will help us to form interior troops and to improve their activity", said General Chikovani.

Refuting the statements that Russian troops take part in order providing in criminal regions of Georgia, Vladimir Chikovani declared: "It is out of the question. The Russian guys are not engaged in any incident on Georgian territory, but those connected with the Group of Russian troops in Transcaucasia."

Speaking on the Abkhazian problem, Vladimir Chikovani mentioned that for realization of the Geneva Agreement on Abkhazia a necessity may arise to return to the idea of creation joint Georgian-Russian Interior troops. Earlier this idea was discussed last year at the Sochi negotiations, devoted to the Abkhazian conflict's settlement.

Abkhazia Seeks Observers Along Inguri River

LD1102101094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0950 GMT 11 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow February 11 TASS—In order to prevent a new outbreak of hostilities on the territory of Abkhazia, the republic's government has asked the president of the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples Yuriy Shanibov to send 50 observers, representing all the peoples affiliated to the confederation, who will be posted along the Inguri River, marking the border between Georgia and Abkhazia, the press service of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet reports.

The letter notes that the Russian leadership had concluded a treaty with Georgia at a time when the situation is most unstable in the region and the Georgian leadership has started to exploit it in its aggressive plans against the people of Abkhazia. The Abkhazian side claims that Georgian special services are staging subversive and terroristic acts against Abkhazian servicemen in the border Gali District.

Georgian 'Subversive' Groups Destroyed in Abkhazia

LD1102172594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1604 GMT 11 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Feb—An Abkhazian Defense Ministry report received here today says the liquidation of Georgian subversive groups operation in Galskiy Rayon has been completed. During the operation 10 bandit formations and two subversive camps were destroyed, a depot of ammunition and various types of small arms, grenade launchers, artillery systems, a tank, and an infantry fighting vehicle were seized.

According to the same source, at the present time Abkhazian armed formations are carrying out measures to strengthen the border along the Inguri River and intensify the guarding of the Inguri hydroelectric power station installations. Combat engineer units of the Abkhazian Armed Forces are clearing the territory of mines.

Also today, the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet Chairman Vladislav Ardzinba met the leader of the UN mission in Abkhazia and members of the planning group under the United Nations. The deployment of the peacemaking forces along the confrontation line on the Inguri River and refugees' problems were discussed.

Georgian-Abkhaz Joint Jurisdiction Body Discussed

LD1102223994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2011 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] At the consultations on the political status of Abkhazia which ended in Moscow today, Georgian and Abkhazian experts discussed setting up a special body for handling issues of the two republics' joint jurisdiction.

The Abkhazian permanent representative to Moscow, Igor Akhba, who also took part in the consultations and the head of the Georgian experts' group, Irakly Machavariani, told Interfax that the joint jurisdiction was supposed to include issues related to foreign policy and trade, customs service and border guards, human rights protection, the energy sector, transportation and the credit and financial systems.

The two sides decided not to speculate on the question as to whether Abkhazia will remain part of Georgia or not, but to solve specific issues. Both Akhba and Machavariani consider this as a constructive side of the dialogue. The Georgian expert even noted that he had not expected such progress.

At the same time, neither of the sides retreated from its positions. The Abkhazian delegation supports the republic's independence from Georgia, equal relations, and does not rule out the possibility of creating a confederation of the two states. On the contrary, the Georgian side insists on preserving Georgia as a single state embracing Abkhazia.

Machavariani said that the head of the experts' group, UN representative and professor at the University of Geneva Giorgio Malinverni, will prepare a report on the results of the consultations for the third round of the Georgian-Abkhazian talks in Geneva scheduled for February 22. Malinverni asked both sides to prepare their proposals as to which powers they wanted to delegate to the joint power body.

Government Unhappy With Abkhaz Refugee Proposal

LD1102210194 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1900 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Today, a CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent spoke to Mr. Otar Beridze, minister of justice of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic, who is a member of a group of experts at the Moscow negotiations over the statute of Abkhazia. During the telephone conversation, he said that in comparison with the first round of the negotiations, the second one was a step forward because detailed discussion started on the issue of a future political statute of Abkhazia, of course, within the context of Georgia's integrity. Delimitation of functions of the central governing bodies, the parliament, various government agencies, and other issues have been discussed. The negotiations stopped at this stage.

During the negotiations, Mr. Otar Beridze said, we had to speak about the recent tragedy in Galiy Rayon. Based on the official statements made by our government and the parliament, our group of experts made an appropriate statement, as well. It has been published in the Russian press. The text of the statement was sent to representatives of the United Nations and the CSCE. The Abkhazian party reacted to our statement in silence claiming that they did not want to be involved in arguments since they had their own views on the events.

The issue of the return of refugees was also discussed during the negotiations. However, the Abkhazian party still insisted that the return of the displaced be carried out on the basis of the filtration. Unfortunately, the Russian representatives backed up this idea. The Georgian party considered this way of formulating the problem as absolutely unacceptable.

In conclusion, Otar Beridze said that the group of experts would still have meetings in Moscow after the third round of negotiations on the settlement of the Abkhaz-Georgian conflict, planned to be held in Geneva on 22 February.

Four-Day Consultations on Abkhaz Status Fail

LD1102224894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1929 GMT 11 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow February 11 TASS—Four-day consultations of experts from Georgia, Abkhazia, Russia, the United Nations Organization and CSCE have failed to coordinate stands of the conflicting sides on the Abkhazian political status.

Any center and region are out of the question, since Georgia and Abkhazia will be equal partners, head of the Abkhazian delegation Andrey Dzhirgenia told ITAR-TASS.

The Abkhazian side insists on greater autonomy in many aspects of state life. It has offered to create a special body in charge of joint competence in foreign policy, trade, customs and border services, power engineering, transport and credit-financial policy. In the opinion of the Abkhazian side, the rest should be in the exclusive competence of Georgian and Abkhazian power structures.

The Abkhazian delegation does not agree to make its republic a Georgian land, whose powers will not exceed social issues, culture and fishing.

Sources at the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet's press service told ITAR-TASS, the sides are to submit more detailed proposals by the next round of Geneva negotiations scheduled for February 23.

Abkhazians Said To Thwart Geneva Agreements

NC1002212494 Yerevan SNARK in English 0820 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Tbilisi, February 10. (SNARK)—"Recent events in Abkhazia which resulted in new victims among the civilian Georgian population represent an intended action aiming to prevent the peace settlement process of conflict", said in his exclusive interview to SNARK Shalva Pitchkhadze, the state adviser of Georgian President. Characterizing the military actions in Feb. 7 and 8 as "bacchanalia", developed by Gudauta separatists against the Georgian population, the result of which were hundreds of innocent civilians, Eduard Shevardnadze's adviser observed: "Abkhazians deliberately torpedoed the Geneva negotiations process. Naturally, the refugee's return to Gali region since Feb. 10, as agreed in Geneva, is out of question".

On these days, said Pitchkhaladze, Eduard Shevardnadze will appear with a statement on recent events in Abkhazia.

Abkhazian Parliament Asserts Independence

MK1202133094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Feb 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Abkhazia"]

[Excerpt] The Republic of Abkhazia Supreme Soviet circulated a statement yesterday contending that "there is no single bilateral document today attesting to the fact that Abkhazia and Georgia are a single state having common territory." It is also stressed in the statement that no international-law agreement concluded by Georgia's leadership has either anything to do with Abkhazia or is valid on its territory.

Observers believe such a statement has appeared now because the Georgian leaders have stepped up their foreign policy activities and signed on behalf of Georgia, as a single state, a number of interstate agreements. [passage omitted]

Press Secretary Denies Media Censorship

AU1202132194 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 4 Feb 94 p 4

[Interview with Zaza Kandelaki, press secretary of the Georgian head of state, by SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA correspondents Inga Abgarova, Tinatin Gviniashvili; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] **SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA dossier: He was born in 1958. He graduated from the historical faculty of**

Tbilisi State University and defended his dissertation on 19th century Georgian history; he is a candidate of historical sciences. He has worked in the Historical Museum, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Political Department of the Head of State. Since November 1993, he has been in charge of the Press Service of the Head of State. [passage omitted]

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] **What does your service concern itself with in the main?**

[Kandelaki] First and foremost, the interests of the state. I consider it intolerable when the mass media distorts certain facts and interprets them in its own way, while not attaching great significance to this. In such cases, it is a question of the violation of the interests of the state. We demand from all the mass media—we also cooperate with the opposition press—accuracy and authenticity. [passage omitted]

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA] **Finally, the matter of censorship. Does it exist or not? Moreover, to what extent is its existence justified in general?**

[Kandelaki] I believe there is no censorship now. It is another matter that each journalist should have, so to speak, his own internal censorship that functions regardless of his personal sympathies and antipathies. Moreover, the criterion for assessing phenomena of one kind or another should be the interests of the state.

Estonia

Prime Minister, Foreign Minister on Moscow Ties

WS1002181694 Tallinn BNS in English 1628 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 10, BNS—The situation in the Estonian-Russian relations is grave, Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar said in an interview with BNS and the Estonian Television.

"Russia's recent statements make it clear that Moscow is attempting to effect a turnabout in its relations with Estonia," Laar said. "Already there's open talk about the insufficiency of diplomatic means to resolve the situation."

The premier said, however, that there's no reason for particular anxiety.

"Estonia will stick to the same steady and calm course as before," Laar said. "History teaches us this is the only way to make progress in relations with Russia. We intend also in the future to state our views to our eastern neighbor clearly and unambiguously. The government will not retreat from its policy."

The premier affirmed Estonia doesn't intend to conclude with Russia any pact on the lines of the 1939 agreement on military bases. "Those forces in Russia that hope for it hope in vain," he said.

Foreign Minister Juri Luik said today in a comment on Estonian- Russian relations that there's no reason for panic. "But Russia's leaders must be shown calmly, through clear foreign political moves, what the bounds of international behavior are," he stated.

Vaino Reinart, head of the Estonian delegation for talks with Russia, told BNS Russia's stepping up the propaganda war is not conducive to an improvement in the relations between the two countries. "Estonian-Russian relations haven't improved," Reinart said.

Commenting on the Latvian government's consent to give Russia the right to continue using the Skrunda radar base for four years, Laar said the basic issue is the status of the base.

"If it becomes a demilitarized facility as proposed, it cannot be regarded as a Russian military base on Latvian territory," the Estonian premier said. "What is of primary importance is that Russia should withdraw its troops from Latvia by Aug. 31."

The premier said the preservation of the Skrunda radar base in Latvia can have no consequences for Estonia.

"What Russia has been aiming to do of late is to cause a rift in Baltic unity. We're up against clear tactics: by playing the Lithuanian card, Russia accuses Estonia and Latvia of human rights violations, then concentrates its attention on Latvia. Since all Russia's attempts to drive a wedge between the Baltic states have failed, it is again quoting all three Baltic states as a negative example," Laar said.

The Estonian premier assumed that, after solving the Skrunda radar base problem, Russia will again focus on Lithuania that faces a major problem connected with the numerous Russian troops in the Kaliningrad region.

Luik told BNS an agreement on the Skrunda radar base hasn't actually been concluded yet. "The term of its use is only one aspect of the agreement, which is connected with the Latvian authorities' access to the base, the sum to be paid for its use, and the number of military at the base," Luik said.

The foreign minister claimed Russia wants to leave about 1,000 men at the Skrunda radar base, while Latvia wants to limit their number at 80.

Parliament Protests Russia's 'Imperialistic Tendencies'

WS1002180794 Tallinn BNS in English 1425 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 10, BNS—The Estonian parliament today with 69 votes for adopted a statement to protest against the "deepening imperialistic tendencies" in Russian foreign policy, which place the Baltic states in Russia's sphere of influence.

"Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has systematically been justifying the continued presence of Russian troops on Estonian territory against the will of the Estonian people and in violation of norms of international law," the lawmakers said in the statement.

The statement maintains that Russian government members' anti- Estonian statements are inconsistent with the U.N. Charter and the CSCE final acts, which Russia must observe in its foreign policy.

The parliament draws the attention of all states' legislatures to the fact that Russia assumed at the CSCE Helsinki summit in 1992 the obligation to withdraw its troops from the Baltic states "in an orderly manner, speedily and completely" without additional conditions. Since the obligation vis-a-vis Estonia and Latvia hasn't been fulfilled, the development of Estonian-Russian relations has come to a stop, the statement notes.

Russia Accuses Country of Distorting Diplomat's Statement

WS1402153194 Tallinn BNS in English 1346 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 14, BNS—The Russian Embassy in Estonia issued a statement taxing Estonian politicians and mass media with interpreting a recent statement by Russian Foreign Ministry official Mikhail Demurin in an "uncivilized manner." Demurin, speaking about a program "to protect ethnic Russians in the CIS countries and the Baltic states," noted that "diplomatic means are not sufficient to resolve the problem."

Estonia's reaction to Demurin's statement was sharp: Estonian ambassador to Moscow was instructed to present a demarche and President Lennart Meri asked Russian ambassador in Tallinn for explanations.

The Russian embassy in Tallinn disseminated the full text of Demurin's address. It reads as follows: "The program is being drafted because, in our opinion, solely diplomatic means are insufficient to solve the problem of Russians in the territory of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic states. The work on a program to protect the interests of and to support ethnic Russians began over a year ago. It concerns measures such as special tele- and broadcasts, humanitarian aid to the needy, support for Russian businessmen, customs and other preferences, support for enterprises that mostly employ Russians, cooperation between banks, etc."

"It is perplexing that some Estonian mass media and politicians should take one phrase out of context and interpret it as another threat," the statement of the Russian Embassy says.

Foreign Minister Comments on Copenhagen Meeting, NATO Ties

WS1002190194 Tallinn BNS in English 1628 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 10, BNS—The meeting with Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen outlined the limits of aid available within NATO's Partnership for Peace program, Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik said today after his return from Denmark where the three Baltic foreign ministers met with their Danish counterpart.

Luik said that Denmark as a NATO member state admits the possibility of NATO taking part in building out Estonia's border defense system.

The foreign minister said the possibility of joint military exercises was also discussed. "The first major joint maneuvers will be conducted in 1994," he said. "Germany, Poland and Denmark, and most probably also the Baltic states will take part in maritime exercises this summer."

Luik said great importance was attached to Estonia sending in the near future a liaison officer to NATO planning division that works out the plans for all the alliance's military operations.

The Baltic foreign ministers and their Danish counterpart discussed also the formation of a Baltic peacekeeping unit. Luik said the Danish officials regard it as having good prospects and are prepared to train military personnel for it.

Luik said the Danish parliament is going to discuss financial aid for the Baltic peacekeeping battalion and the Estonian border guards. "If the parliament approves an aid program, we will probably receive more up-to-date communications and transport equipment," he predicted.

The meeting between the foreign ministers touched on the Baltic states' relations with the European Union. "European Union member states accept us as future members of the union," Luik said.

Another subject discussed in Copenhagen was the situation in Russia. Luik said Danish foreign policy leaders expressed great concern over the state of affairs in Russia. "There's no reason for panic, of course, but Russia's leaders must be shown calmly, through clear foreign political moves, what the bounds of international behavior are," the Estonian foreign minister declared.

Lithuania

Brazauskas Holds Talks With Norwegian Leaders in Oslo

LD1202115694 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] We begin our news bulletin with a report from Norway. Correspondent Saulius [name indistinct] reports:

[Correspondent] The Lithuanian president stopped in Oslo yesterday evening on his way to the Lillehammer Olympic Games. In the Norwegian capital, Algirdas Brazauskas met Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, Foreign Minister Bjoern Tore Godal, and members of the Storting Foreign Affairs Committee.

In his conversation with the Norwegian prime minister, Brazauskas expressed gratitude to the Nordic states for their constant concern and support for Lithuania and for ever closer contacts linking the Nordic Council and the Baltic states. It was noted that it is useful for Lithuania—which wishes to sign a free trade treaty with the European Union, is preparing to join the European Union, and is negotiating with the European Community—to get acquainted with Norway's experience. Lithuania has expressed its wish to become a NATO member and has signed the Partnership for Peace document. Norway, which has already joined that organization, could help Lithuania to become full member.

Satisfaction was expressed at the developing cooperation in economics, science, and culture. During the meeting with the parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee members, relations between the Seimas and the Storting were discussed. A great deal of attention was devoted to Lithuania's relations with Russia and their prospects. The Norwegians were interested in our relations with our closest neighbors, Belarus and Ukraine. It was noted that the relations of great states and their diktat to the smaller states are not correct and [passage indistinct].

A similar discussion took place at the Norwegian Foreign Ministry with Foreign Minister Bjoern Tore Godal, who was interested in the results of the negotiations with Ukraine and how relations with Belarus will develop.

Brazauskas arrived in Lillehammer late at night. The Lithuanian president will meet Norwegian King Harald V today and will attend the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games.

Brazauskas Annual Report to Seimas

LD1102181694 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0808 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Annual report presented by President Algirdas Brazauskas at a Seimas plenary session in Vilnius—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Social and legal security is, to my mind, the most important concern of the state. We must all, together, create such a system of a democratic society and social order which in itself is favorably disposed toward man. Lithuania will then be a secure, flourishing, democratic country where concord and honesty will be dominant. [passage omitted]

The nature of the political system of our democratic state became much stronger in 1993. It was very important that all the most important institutions provided for by the republic's Constitution, which did not exist in 1992, came into being. They are the president of the Republic of Lithuania and, for the first time in the history of the Lithuanian state, the Constitutional Court. [passage omitted]

Visiting various towns and districts in Lithuania, I noticed that there has been no positive progress in local government. The reform of local government is overdue; corresponding draft laws have been drawn up. It is most important that reform does not take place for the sake of reform, but serves the solution of everyday problems of every person, not destroying what has been proved to be useful in practice. We now have our independent state, but we have failed to reorganize our state apparatus in such a way that it qualitatively differs from the previous one. This is bad. The implementation of the general state policy depends on the work of state officials and on their competence. Of course, the formation of a civilized state apparatus is a long-term process. Therefore it is important to adopt at present a law which establishes the rights and duties of state officials, their responsibilities and social guarantees. This would be followed by more radical decisions.

I am a realist; therefore I do not deny that not all the residents of Lithuania have a favorable attitude to the present government and its policy. But, I think, nobody will dispute the fact that the political atmosphere in our country became calmer last year after we stopped looking for internal enemies and fighting against them. [passage omitted]

On 1 January 1993 the republic's nationality was 19.4 percent non-Lithuanian. Eighteen of Lithuania's national minorities and ethnic groups have more than 100 public organizations. The Lithuanian legislation and practical policy regulating national relations is being positively assessed both in the country and on the international scale. A careful, consistent and at the same time a principled policy enabled the Republic of Lithuania to avoid the troubles and difficulties experienced by some other countries. This is capital which must not be thoughtlessly squandered. [passage omitted]

I wish to note on this occasion that the adoption of a law on preventive detention, which has been the object of many disputes, has become an objective and unavoidable reaction to the organized crimes and enabled the law enforcement bodies to take the initiative. But the combat against organized crime with political and legal means can be successful only up to a certain extent. Economic and social causes of crime must be eliminated. [passage omitted]

The national defense system is being reorganized according to the Western model. I must say that the rapprochement with the NATO structures is taking place, above all, by reorganizing the structure of our Ministry of National Defense according to Western standards. In solving these problems, we expect serious assistance from Western military experts. Nonstatutory relations and other negative phenomena in our army are among the most pressing problems. There cannot be concessions or compromises in this sphere. Nonstatutory relations in our army must be uprooted by mercilessly punishing the culprits. This, for me, as the supreme commander of the armed forces, is a strict and clear demand to the leadership of the Ministry of National Defense, the army commander and to all military commanders. [passage omitted]

The decline of production slowed in the second half of 1993, and the signs of stability and even growth could be noticed in some branches of the economy. Some enterprises adapt themselves to new conditions of the manufacture and sale of products, and find themselves partners. Inflation was a very heavy burden last year. Joint efforts by the government and the Bank of Lithuania stopped it in the middle of the year. This was an essential condition for the introduction of the litas. After the introduction of the litas the rate of inflation declined even more, and constituted in the second half of the year [figure indistinct] percent. Since the prices of raw materials and energy resources have reached the world level I think there will be no great increase in prices this year. [passage omitted]

The government program provides for concluding the stage of primary privatization in the first half of this year. But almost half of all investment checks remain unused. It is becoming obvious that it is not expedient to convert them into state bonds. In order to use all checks in the first stage it is essential to inform the residents as soon as possible about what will be privatized and to define the final date of the validity of the investment checks. [passage omitted]

The government must effectively guide the process of privatization. I consider the work of the Central Privatization Commission to be unsatisfactory. Foreign investments in Lithuania's economy are not increasing as we expected. At present no foreign investors compete among themselves in striving to dominate Lithuania's market, but, on the contrary, the states are competing among themselves for foreign investments, including the Baltic states. In order to win this competition, it is esential to pay more attention to advertising, propagate our investment projects, supply information and all other services to foreign investors, and simplify the order of the use of foreign credits. [passage omitted]

Many problems have accumulated in agriculture. In carrying out the agricultural reform the seed of the current confusion was sown, which almost halted the reform. As a result of a limited understanding of the problem of social justice the principles of rational farming were ignored. [passage omitted] Yet contrary to what our opponents and sometimes even misinformed foreign experts maintained, the agricultural reform was not impeded. [passage omitted]

According to the latest figures, every third farmer has been given all the documents proving his rights to land and property. About 30 percent of land suitable for farming is currently used by the Lithuanian farmers. In 1993, privatization of the property owned by the agricultural enterprises was virtually completed. The remaining property of agricultural enterprises due to be privatized comprises only one percent of the value of that which is to be privatized. However, the general situation in agriculture and the financial state of agricultural subjects so far is not satisfactory. The slump in production which started three years ago continued last year. The volume of production in comparison with 1992 has decreased by eight percent.

Farmers and agricultural enterprises encounter great financial difficulties, the reasons for which are: A decrease in the solvent demand by the population resulting in contraction of the internal market; limited export possibilities; and an ever-increasing flow of imported food products. The possibilities of the state to support the farmers in one way or another are also limited. However, most probably the main reason for the current situation are the debts to the agricultural suppliers by the food processing enterprises. [passage omitted]

Although not long ago the farmers demanded freedom for economic activity, now they are attacking the government, demanding rather strict state control. Without going into fine detail I would like to say this: In a nutshell, the support must correspond to the financial possibilities of the state budget, it must help to coordinate the interests of producers and consumers, it must lower social tensions in rural areas and not increase them in the cities. It must not contradict the essential concepts of the agreement concluded with the World Bank and the IMF. [passage omitted]

The Partnership for Peace program signed in Brussels on 27 January is a real step in ensuring the security of the state. It is becoming obvious that membership in the European Community and NATO is only a means of striving for further aims. I think that there is no need to discuss Lithuania's (?position). From the point of view of culture and of the geopolitical situation, it is a Central European country. But there is no need to artificially thrust ourselves into some single region and thus limit our opportunities. We are both in Central Europe and in the region of the Baltic Sea. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should define Lithuania's strategy both toward the states of the Baltic Sea and of Central Europe, the Visegrad group, and other states.

Many changes have taken place in the relations between the Baltic states. Cooperation between Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, which has often been declaratory and which almost ceased in the autumn of 1991, acquired new features last year. Several meetings of the presidents, parliaments and heads of governments took place. The tripartite free trade agreement was signed and ratified, the memorandum on consular relations and the joint visa area of the Baltic states was signed. A Baltic Council is to be formed from the existing interparliamentary Baltic Assembly and the future Baltic [words indistinct].

A formula of three-plus-five is being consolidated in Lithuanian foreign policy. This is the prospect of cooperation between the three Baltic states and five Nordic states. But there are problems here, too. In relations with the Nordic states we are as yet unable to make use of the proposed aid. We not always display initiative.

Our foreign policy contains the striving to establish and develop bilateral relations with Western states. I would like to mention relations with Germany as an example. They are intensive and can serve as an example of good relations with a powerful Western state, if only we can make better use of the opportunities of economic cooperation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, making use of this example, could develop in a more inventive way our state relations with Great Britain, France, Italy, and the United States. It would be advantageous to Lithuania to establish closer relations with the Balkan states and those in the Near East, and also with such countries as Austria, Switzerland, Turkey, Israel and Canada.

The relations between Lithuania and Poland have so far not been regulated by a joint political treaty. We must more boldly take the necessary step and sign such a treaty. The delay is very detrimental to Lithuania's interests.

We must make better use of all opportunities in working in international organizations. This is a good opportunity to develop bilateral relations, especially bearing in mind our limited material and technical resources and shortage of experienced specialists. Relations with Russia and the CIS countries are important to us. Relations with Russia rather improved in 1993. This is testified by my meeting with the Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, and a packet of bilateral agreements signed during the visit of the Russian prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, in Vilnius. This provides good grounds for the development of Lithuanian-Russian economic cooperation. So far I do not see any need to revise our policy toward Russia, although, in time, corrections might be necessary. If an imperial stand becomes stronger in the foreign policy of that country, Lithuania's policy will change toward Russia, too.

The most important thing for us is to remain realists. Lithuania's relations with other countries will continue to be based on bilateral agreements, and various issues, both with Russia and with other CIS countries will be solved by Lithuania by way of negotiations. The visits to Kazakhstan and China demonstrated what huge and untapped possibilities exist in the Asian region. This is an immense market, the source of inexhaustible raw materials, the fastest developing economy, new technologies, financial and credit resources.

I would like to mention that Lithuanian Government structures have not always smoothly coordinated their foreign policy. By my decree, the Council for the Coordination of Foreign Policy was formed. We should expect basic changes, although this council has no constitutional power to make decisions, but the authorizations of the heads and representatives of the state institutions make it possible to strive by way of coordination for the optimal decisions for our country.

It is very important to form a positive image of Lithuania in the world. Disputes, dialogues and sharp criticism on the domestic issues of Lithuania should not become an object of international investigation or even derision, unless attempts are being made to discredit the state of Lithuania and frighten away our potential partners. [passage omitted]

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